

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Pitt keeps BC from clinching Big East**

Back page



Pittsburgh's Antonio Graves

**Marines may hike bonuses for enlisted**

Page 6



Pilot Steve Fossett

**First nonstop, solo global flight attempted**

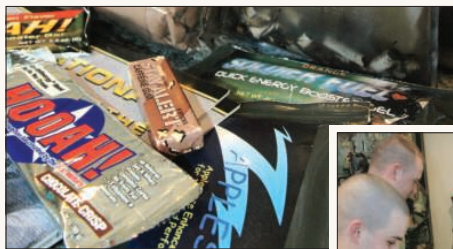
Page 12

Volume 2, No. 324 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2005

## Army to put 19,000 E-4s on fast track to promotion

Shortage of sergeants prompts move to simplify advancement Page 5



### New military food is taster's choice

Page 7



Left: Kathy-Lynn Evangelos, with the Department of Defense Combat Feeding program, gives soldiers a sample Monday of new food rations being tested and implemented at the 44th Signal Battalion dining facility in Mannheim, Germany.

Far left, top: Some new food rations and supplements include First Strike Rations, power bars and caffeine gum. Far left, bottom: Many of the cooks were impressed with the taste of the new Meals, Ready to Eat.

PHOTOS BY  
RAYMOND T. CONWAY  
Stars and Stripes

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**New York blackout:** The blackout that swept across eight states in the summer of 2003 spread so fast there was nothing operators of New York's electrical grid could do to stop it, according to a report from the operators.

The New York Independent System Operator's final report on the blackout concluded that New York did not initiate or contribute to the disturbance, echoing past comments from the grid administrators.

The Aug. 14, 2003, blackout affected 6.7 million of New York's 7.5 million customers, with the New York metropolitan area hit particularly hard. Investigators believe the problems started in Ohio, but critics have questioned whether there were adequate safeguards in New York.

**Brain-damaged woman:** The parents of Terri Schiavo asked a judge in Tampa, Fla., to allow the severely brain-damaged woman to divorce her husband — even if she dies — in one of a flurry of 11 new motions filed by the couple.

In the divorce motion filed Monday, Bob and Mary Schindler accused Michael Schiavo of adultery and not acting in his wife's best interests. The Schindlers have less than three weeks to find a way to keep their daughter alive before her feeding tube is removed.

"We have filed divorce proceedings because of (Schiavo's) total disregard for Terri as his wife," Bob Schindler said. "He is married to Terri, but he is living with another woman and he has two children by her. It has become quite obvious that his priorities are not in Terri's best interest."

**Botulism poisoning probe:** A Florida doctor who's recovering from botulism poisoning rolled a walker into court to face fraud charges for allegedly selling and using the raw toxin in place of the wrinkle treatment Botox.

Bach McComb is accused of paralyzing himself and three others by injecting a potent, unapproved form of the botulism poison at an Oakland Park clinic last November instead of the costlier licensed drug.

McComb went to New Jersey for the Thanksgiving holiday in November and was hospitalized there, then returned to South Florida to face the federal indictment.

### World

**British stabbing spree:** A 29-year-old man appeared in court Tuesday charged with murdering a man and attempting to murder five other people in a stabbing spree in north London.

Ismail Dogan, who is being held at Belmarsh high-security prison in southeast London, appeared by video link at the Old Bailey court. He was ordered to remain in custody until his October trial.

Dogan, who is unemployed, is charged with murdering Ernest Meeds, 58, and injuring the others during what appeared to be a random series of attacks on Dec. 23. Police did identify the other victims, four men and a woman, who were all said to be in a stable condition after the attacks.

**Iran earthquake:** In a near miraculous case of survival, a 40-year-old man whose house was destroyed by earthquake was pulled out alive Tuesday after eight days under the rubble, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Ahmad Habbadreh was found unable to speak under the ruins of his house in Zaranud in southeastern Iran. He was rushed to hospital in Kerman province, the agency said.

"We reported him missing to rescue teams, who went to his destroyed house and began clearing the debris," said Mohammad Khaki, a Zaranud resident.

**Sept. 11 suspect retial:** The United



**Prince Charles goes on tour:** Britain's Prince Charles meets Red Cross volunteers in Navaldy, Sri Lanka. The prince arrived in Sri Lanka early on Monday and visited various tsunami-affected areas in the eastern coast before beginning a five-day, five-city whirlwind tour of Australia. On Tuesday, he visited a Perth hospital where victims of the terrorist bombings in Bali were treated in 2002.

States will provide more evidence for the retrial of the only Sept. 11 suspect ever convicted, the German government said in a letter read in court Tuesday in Hamburg.

Mounir el Motassadeq, a 30-year-old Moroccan, was being retried on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization on suspicion he provided logistical support for suicide hijackers Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehi and Ziad Jarrah.

He was convicted in 2003 on the same charges and sentenced to the maximum 15 years, but an appeals court threw out the conviction last year and ordered a retrial. It ruled that he had been unfairly denied testimony by key al-Qaida suspects in U.S. custody.

**Hostile Web site:** Police have detained two more Bahrainis for links to a banned Internet forum that the government views as hostile, a government official and a defense lawyer said Tuesday.

Mohammed al-Mousawi and Hussein Youssef were detained Monday night, said lawyer Ahmed al-Araby.

Their arrests came a day after the founder-manager of the Web site, Ali Abdelmanna Mirza, was detained for 15 days.

State prosecutors have not issued a statement on the three detentions, but a government official confirmed them Tuesday. The official spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

**Southern Thailand violence:** The Thai government has dropped a proposal to cut off funding for southern villages considered sympathetic to Muslim insurgents, an army commander said Tuesday, following criticism that the policy would only prompt further violence in the area.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra announced the plan last month for so-called "red zone" villages in the largely Muslim provinces near Malaysia, over concerns the development money could be used to buy weapons to carry out attacks.

**Iran's uranium enrichment:** U.S. support for European diplomacy has improved the chances of reaching a negotiated solution to the dispute over Iran's uranium enrichment program, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said Tuesday.

"My impression is that the chances of a settlement have risen," Schroeder said during a visit to Kuwait, adding that the United States is "clearly supporting the approach of negotiations."

Officials from Germany, Britain and

France have been meeting Iranian representatives in a bid to persuade the country to abandon its enrichment of uranium — a process that can produce fuel for nuclear reactors or material for atomic weapons, depending on the level of enrichment.

**Israel car bomb:** An Islamic Jihad militant told Israeli interrogators his group planned to detonate a large car bomb near Israeli targets, security officials said Tuesday after troops discovered a vehicle packed with half a ton of explosives in the West Bank, the largest bomb found in four years of fighting.

The militant, Jibril Zuhbeydi, is the brother of a prominent militant leader in the West Bank town of Jenin, Zakariya Zuhbeydi, security officials said. Jibril Zuhbeydi, an Islamic Jihad member, was arrested two months ago.

The car bomb was discovered Monday near Jenin. The vehicle was parked at a junction near the town of Jenin and safely detonated it in a controlled explosion, the military said Tuesday.

**Nepal rebels:** Nepalese soldiers killed at least 48 communist rebels and suffered four deaths themselves in a battle in the country's southwest, officials said Tuesday. It was the fiercest clash since the king imposed emergency rule a month ago to focus on stamping out the insurgency.

The fighting took place late Monday and early Tuesday near the village of Mohamandpur, about 350 miles southwest of Kathmandu, after soldiers went to the area to clear trees and debris that rebels had used to block a highway, police and army officials said.

Rebels hiding nearby threw a bomb at the troops and opened fire, with soldiers quickly taking positions and fighting back, the officials said.

**Tsunami survivors:** Celebrated tsunami survivor "Baby 81" is headed to the United States on Tuesday to appear on a television program along with his parents, whose weeks-long court battle to reclaim their 4-month-old boy touched people worldwide.

Murugupillai and Jentia Jayarajah and their baby, Abilash, are to appear on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" program this week and were granted expedited visas by the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Consul General Marc Williams said.

"Millions of Americans will soon know about this wonderful story of reunion in the midst of so much tragedy after the tsunami," Williams said in a statement.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# Group claims responsibility for Hilla attack

## Web site statement purportedly made by al-Zarqawi network

By QASIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
The Associated Press

HILLAH, Iraq — An Internet statement purportedly by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq group claimed responsibility for the Hilla suicide bombing that killed at least 125 people, the single deadliest attack of its kind since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

It did not mention a medical clinic where the recruits had gathered when the suicide car bomber blew himself up, or a nearby market where a number of people were also killed.

It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the statement. The claim, however, was posted on the Web site that has previously carried al-Qaida statements. The statement was also posted under the name of Abu Maysara al-Iraqi, the designated media coordinator of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq.

In Hilla, hundreds of people inspected corpses at a hospital morgue on Tuesday, trying to identify friends and family who died in a suicide bombing.

Babil province police said another five people had succumbed to their injuries, bringing the number of people who died from wounds to 10.

Hospital officials said more than 141 others were wounded in

the blast, which targeted mostly Shiite police and National Guard recruits lined up for physical exams at a medical clinic.

Monday's bombing in Hilla presented the boldest challenge yet to Iraq's efforts to build a security force that can take over from the Americans.

Provincial Gov. Walid al-Janabi told reporters in Hilla that no funeral procession would be held in the city due to "security reasons." He did not elaborate, but police said they feared new attacks.

More than 2,000 people held an impromptu demonstration on front of the medical clinic where the blast occurred.

They chanted "no to terrorism" and "no to Baathism and Wahhabism" and demanded that interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi step down. They also carried banners reading "No to terrorism."

Wahhabism is a reference to adherents of the strict form of Sunni Islam preached by Osama bin Laden, while the Baath party was the political organization that ran Iraq under Saddam Hussein.

Police prevented people from parking cars in front of the clinic or the hospital, where authorities blocked hospital gates with barbed wire to stave off hundreds of victims' relatives desperate for information on loved ones.

The explosion in Hilla, a large Shiite Muslim town about 60



Local residents look at the scene Monday after a suicide car bomber blasted a crowd of police and national guards recruits as they gathered outside a clinic in Hilla, 60 miles south of Baghdad.

miles south of Baghdad, was so powerful that the only thing remaining of the bomber's car was the twisted wreckage of the engine block.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi National Guard major was killed in a roadside bomb blast in the southern Doura neighborhood, Interior Ministry officials said.

Two unidentified corpses —

one beheaded, the other with its hands tied — were found floating in the Tigris River in Wasit, 60 miles south of Baghdad, morgue officials in nearby Kut said.

Missing French journalist Florence Aubenas of the French daily Liberation appeared on a video recording for help Tuesday, her first appearance since she went missing on Jan. 5. The video

was dropped at the offices of an international news agency in Baghdad. It was not possible to verify the tape's authenticity or when it was made.

About 200 foreigners have been abducted in Iraq in the past year. At least 13 foreigners remain in the hands of their captors, more than 30 were killed and the rest were freed or escaped.

## Karzai seeks long-term ties with U.S.

By STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan and the United States will establish a long-term military partnership and officials have already begun working out the details, a spokesman for President Hamid Karzai said Tuesday.

To consolidate the war-ravaged country's fragile recovery from years of impoverishing conflict, "we do need a long-term, strong and strategic partnership with the United States," presidential spokesman Jawed Ludin said at a news conference.

"The question of what form that will take is being worked on but it will, we be-

lieve, span over a broad range of spheres including the economy, including politics, including military," Ludin said.

Ludin declined to comment on a visiting U.S. senator's suggestion last week that America needs permanent bases in Afghanistan to secure its interests in the region, which include Iran, nuclear riches Pakistan and India and oil-rich Central Asia.

However, the spokesman said Karzai's government was optimistic it can reach an agreement with U.S. officials.

Three years after driving out the Taliban for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, the American military has about 17,000 troops in Afghanistan, many of them deployed near the mountainous Pakistani frontier.

It also operates air bases at Bagram, north of the capital, Kandahar in the south and Jalalabad in the east, equipped with helicopter gunships and ground-attack aircraft.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 U.S. commander in Afghanistan, said Friday that he was concerned that American policy-makers will reduce that force too soon, arguing that militants remain a grave threat to Karzai's feeble government.

However, he also said work was progressing on a new runway at Bagram and that the sprawling Soviet-era base "is a place where we see a long-term presence of coalition and, frankly, U.S. capabilities."

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,497 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,135 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians. The AP count is 12 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,359 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,026 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- Two U.S. soldiers died Monday in a vehicular accident near the town of Beiji, Iraq.
- One U.S. soldier died Sunday after being shot while manning a traffic point in Baghdad.
- Two U.S. soldiers were killed Saturday by an explosive and small arms attack in Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

- Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew W. Nowacki, 24, South Euclid, Ohio, killed Saturday in Iraq's Babil province, assigned to Marine Forces Reserve 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Erie, Pa.

## Saddam's lawyer: Special court is illegitimate

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A lawyer for Saddam Hussein on Tuesday condemned plans to try the former Iraqi leader in a U.S.-led special court, saying it is illegitimate, and said that he and other members of Saddam's defense team have been denied access to him.

Saddam and his 11 top lieutenants have been held for months at an undisclosed location, believed to be near the Baghdad International Airport, west of the capital. They appeared before the Iraqi Special Tribunal in July 2004 to



Saddam

face preliminary charges for their activities under the former regime.

Saddam was captured north of Baghdad in December 2003.

Ziad al-Khasawneh, who heads a committee set up to provide Saddam's legal defense, said the special court

doesn't meet the requirements for a

fair and safe trial, and there were no grounds to try Saddam in the first place.

"We believe Saddam and his colleagues should not be tried by any court," he said at a news conference in Tokyo, where he is trying to raise support. "Whatever is built on illegality is illegal. Everything after the occupation — the temporary government, the elections — are illegitimate."

Al-Khasawneh said that under Iraqi law, Saddam and his colleagues were immune to criminal charges, and they are thus not liable under international law, either.

# Connecting Iraqis in need with private help

## Troops assist meeting of leaders, nongovernmental organizations

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — After a country and its people have been battered left and right, it is often nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs, that ride in to the rescue.

But Iraq is neither a safe place to ride nor an easy place to do business, as was reinforced at Sunday's New Dawn NGO Conference. One thing seemed certain: Connecting the groups with money to give and those who need help is going to be a long, hard slog.

"The biggest thing we have to do is moderate our expectations," said Spc. Matthew Saarima with the 41st Civil Affairs Battalion. "We have to start small and work our way up."

"There is very little infrastructure, very little leadership and very little confidence and optimism. These are all daily impediments to doing the job."

About 125 representatives from 70 organizations as well as 16 Iraqi leaders came to the conference at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit.

The military also helped transport attendees, flying some by helicopter from Baghdad, about 80 miles to the south.

There are a lot of needs in Iraq that charities would like to address, such as setting up schools and clinics, treating sick people and helping farmers grow crops.

"We are working in a country that is trying to get its democratic feet underneath it," said Capt. Tammie Perreault, operations of-

ficer for the 411th CAB, who added that NGOs weren't welcomed under Saddam Hussein's regime. "Look at how many people who say, 'I want to help the people of this country.'"

Iraqis, she said, aren't used to working with outsiders to develop useful programs.

One man, for example, came to Sunday's conference hoping to receive a new wheelchair. But the conference was to build contacts and generate ideas to work with charities to outfit people with new wheelchairs.

"There's money out there, but we're not just going to give it to you in a plastic bag; we're hoping people will get mingling and start talking," said Staff Sgt. Solita Padmore, also of the 411th CAB, an Army Reserve unit with Task Force Liberty, a Tikrit-based conglomerate of units under the 42nd Infantry Division.

In other countries, charity workers can come in and go right to work. But many are scared to come to Iraq.

"The problem is the NGOs do not coordinate their work with the administrative authorities," said Iraqi Maj. Gen. Abdullah Hussein Mohammed, deputy governor of Salah Ad Din province, where Tikrit is located. "They must coordinate with us and permit us to support them with security forces."

There is also the issue of appearances. Some Iraqis and outside charities are sensitive about working with the U.S. military, according to A. Heather Coyne, the



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

**Lt. Col. Amir Adelphe A. Edward, foreground left, a senior Air Force medical adviser, interprets as local Iraqi leaders and representatives of nongovernmental organizations discuss ways in which charities can address the needs of Iraqis at a conference Sunday in Tikrit, Iraq. Behind Edward are, from left, Army Col. Joan Sullivan, division surgeon for the 42nd Infantry Division; and Sgt. Cruz Delacruz and Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Mason of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve.**

Baghdad chief of the U.S. Institute for Peace, a U.S. government organization that funds peace-related projects.

"It's a tough environment and the [U.S.] military is doing its best to provide bridges so people can have access [to charity]," Coyne said. "But the people who have the money to give are concerned about the 'association' with the military."

At Sunday's conference, some attendees sat off to the side and grumbled.

"This conference is very far from our needs, our goals," Eman

Jabar Kathem of the Women's Rights Center for International Friendship said through an interpreter. She noted that she is from Hillah, far to the south, while the Iraqi leaders in attendance represented only areas to the north.

Brig. Gen. Essay Abed Mohammed, director of the Joint Coordination Center for Salah Ad Din province, said the conference's goals were too broad.

"It was a fantastic first step," he said through an interpreter. "Everybody wants to make their point."

"The next step needs to have

very detailed, very specific communication."

Several groups broke off and had deep discussions.

"I'll be a month or two down the road before we start seeing the fruits of this conference," Perreault said. "The goal is to have people reconnect after the event."

Soldiers such as Saarima sound-

ed confident that progress was slow but steady.

"At the end of the day, I have to ask, 'Did I get a little bit done?'" he said. "If you did, then you're happy."

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# Duo readies for SETAF's arrival in Afghanistan

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

**RAF HYTHE, England** — All of the soldiers assigned to the Combat Equipment Battalion-Hythe are in Afghanistan.

Both of them.

Lt. Col. Martin Binder and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Cassandra Young arrived in early January. Their job is to prepare sites for putting armor on the Southern European Task Force's vehicles.

SETAF, from Vicenza, Italy, will soon begin a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

In a telephone interview from Afghanistan, Binder told Stars and Stripes that concrete pads are being poured at Bagram Air Base with the help of the 367th Engineering Battalion, already in place. The pads will hold the shelters where maintenance will be done.

"We will be putting on armor by 1 April," he said. "That's when the majority of SETAF vehicles will arrive."

He said the effort would go on at Bagram, Kandahar and Salerno.

"We've got to go where the warfighter is," said Binder, who added that 2,000 vehicles of all types would eventually receive armor in the shops.

Binder has a staff now of about 12 people on the ground. That will grow to 30. An Army Reserve unit from Minnesota will do the actual armoring, he said, while his staff handles the administrative chores.



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Soldiers prepare concrete pads at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, which will hold shelters where vehicle maintenance will be done. The work is being completed ahead of the arrival of the Vicenza, Italy-based Southern European Task Force.**

The Combat Equipment Battalion-Hythe includes only Binder and Young as green-suiters. It also includes 200 British employees with various skills needed to maintain the Army's fleet of boats, the battalion's main job.

But, Binder said, his battalion is the only one in the Army Materiel Command that deploys.

"We deploy about 160 people a year," he said. "In order for the Army Materiel Com-

mand to contribute to the fight, we've got to be able to deploy forward."

When Col. Xavier Lobato, commander of the U.S. Army Field Support Brigade-Europe in Seckenheim, Germany, gave Binder the warning order in December, Binder had little trouble filling out his roster, he said.

"I had 20 volunteers within 24 hours," he said. "These guys will deploy at the drop of a hat."

The British employees will stay for 120 days or so before rotating home and being replaced.

Alex Blincow is one of the volunteers. He volunteered, he said, "to be a part of it."

The importance of the mission was demonstrated recently, he said, when an armored Humvee hit a land mine. A broken arm was the most serious injury.

"If that had been a soft-skin vehicle, there would have been fatalities," he said.

Mike Wilson, another volunteer employee from Hythe, said he raised his hand for the mission as a way of paying back the Army that has employed him for 24 years.

"I came here with an open mind. I didn't know what to expect," he said. "We had to start from scratch."

Binder said the mission isn't limited to the armoring. He is preparing the site at Bagram for continued general maintenance of vehicles.

"Since the Army is going to have stay-behind equipment in both Iraq and Afghanistan, the amount of abuse these vehicles will take is monumental," he said.

The shelters he is building now will provide cover for the maintenance of those vehicles long after the armoring mission is complete, he said.

Although the mission seems a long way from maintaining the Army's tugs and landing craft, which is the battalion's main task, Binder said there's a direct link.

"Maintenance is maintenance," he said. "Customers are customers. They deserve the best."

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Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky meets reporters at the State Department in Washington on Monday to discuss the State Department's 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

## U.S. report criticizes Iraqi government for human rights abuse

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Serious human rights abuses occurred under the interim Iraqi government installed by the United States after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, including torture, illegal detention by police and forced confessions, according to a State Department report.

Though the interim government did reverse "a long legacy of serious human rights abuses" under Saddam, the report said that "corruption at all levels of government remained a problem" during the period and Iraqis continued to be victimized by police, courts and others in authority.

Iraqi officials were correcting these practices, the report said. It said the January elections and continuing struggle against insurgent violence had helped "create

momentum for the improvement of human rights practices."

The report, in which the State Department assesses the state of human rights around the world, said that tens of thousands of people across the world suffered last year at the hands of repressive governments, some of them — like Iraq — friendly to the United States.

The report, released Monday, did not address incidents in Iraq in which Americans were involved, such as the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

Overall, the findings were similar to those in three decades of annual human rights reports to Congress.

"Freedom and the ability to choose one's government still elude many people and many portions of the globe," Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky said.

## 3-star general to probe Gitmo abuse reports

By FRANK GRIFFITHS

The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The U.S. military appointed a three-star general to lead an investigation into abuse allegations at the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, clearing the way for investigators to question a two-star general who once commanded the camp.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Randall M. Schmidt takes over from Brig. Gen. John Furlow, according to the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, which oversees the camp in eastern Cuba.

The move would allow Schmidt to question Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller, a two-star general who commanded the camp during many of the incidents detailed in

recently released FBI memos that complain of "aggressive" interrogation techniques. Miller was in Guantanamo from October 2002 to March 2004 and was sent there to get more information from terror suspects.

U.S. military regulations require that an investigating officer must outrank anyone who is interviewed. Furlow requested that a more senior officer be appointed. Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, Southern Command's commander, has given until March 31 to complete the investigation.

The military maintains that most incidents detailed in the FBI memos occurred in 2002 when the prison was just opening, and that some of the interrogation techniques labeled as "aggressive" are no longer in use.

By LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army has a shortage of active-duty sergeants and a plan to fix the problem.

On Thursday, 19,000 qualified corporals and specialists will automatically be placed on the promotion list for sergeant, instead of having to wait for a commander to recommend them for advancement to that rank.

Army leaders decided to change the way soldiers reach the noncommissioned officer ranks because of a chronic shortage, according to retired Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell, the Army's personnel policy integrator for enlisted professional development.

The Army currently needs about 1,500 more sergeants from 31 specialties [see list].

Purcell said the reasons for the sergeant shortage include an "insatiable appetite" for E-5s due to the ongoing active-duty end-strength increase of 30,000 soldiers.

At the same time, "the number of eligible specialists who are on a promotion list have dwindled to the point where we can't fill all the sergeant requirements," Purcell said Tuesday.

Advancement through the pay grades E-1 (private) through E-4 (corporal or specialist) is automatic, based on time in service and time in grade.

The Army also has a minimum requirement for promotion to E-5, or sergeant, and entry into the ranks of noncommissioned officers or NCOs, who have leadership roles.

The minimum is 48 months in service and 12 months in grade, and an absence of negatives in their personnel record.

But until now, soldiers who hoped to move to the E-5 level also required a commander's recommendation to go before a promotions board of senior NCOs.

If the board approves the recommendation, soldiers are awarded points for a variety of skills and achievements. The minimum number of points a soldier needs to qualify for promotion to E-5 is 350, while the maximum score is 800.

The higher the total score, the more likely an E-4 is to get one of



Retired Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell

the sergeant slots, whose number varies each month and by Military Occupational Specialty.

But commanders are recommending only 10 percent of all eligible soldiers, Purcell said.

The problem, he said, is that many unit commanders believe that soldiers should meet higher standards than the Army's minimum before they are ready to assume leadership duties.

"The notion that you have to be fully ready to be a sergeant is a bad notion," Purcell said. "I'll tell you, if that were true, I'd never have been promoted."

The new policy, which begins Thursday, "is really a forcing mechanism to get soldiers in a promotable status to satisfy requirements, but it keeps the chain of command fully involved in that entire process," Purcell said.

From now on, soldiers will automatically be placed on the E-5 promotion list, with a score of 350 points, as long as they meet the minimum requirements.

That means 19,000 active-duty soldiers who otherwise would not have been eligible for sergeant's stripes will go on the March list, Purcell said.

But that does not mean those 19,000 troops will get promoted. Unit commanders will get a copy of the new list, and will have 15 days to strike any of their soldiers they believe should not be promoted, Purcell said.

Even if they stay on the list, those soldiers who made it auto-

### Who's eligible

These are the first Military Occupation Specialists (MOSs) affected by the Army's change in promotion policy. The list is subject to change on a monthly basis (see below).

13F Fire support specialist  
13W Field artillery specialist

19D Cavalry scout  
15Y AH-64D armament/electrical/avionics systems repairer (Aviation)

21C Bridge crewmember  
21D Diver  
21F Crane operator

21R Interior electrician  
21T Topographic analyst  
21W Carpentry and masonry specialist

25B Information systems operator-analyst Military Police  
32I Internment/restesment specialist

37F Psychological operations specialist  
42U Public affairs specialist

45C Fire control repairer  
63A M1 Abrams tank system maintainer

63M Bradley fighting vehicle system maintainer  
74D Chemical operations specialist

88K Motorcraft operator  
88M Water transport operator  
88N Transportation management coordinator

89D Explosive ordnance disposal specialist  
92L Petroleum laboratory specialist

92W Water treatment specialist  
96B Intelligence analyst  
96D Imagery analyst

96U Unmanned aerial vehicle operator  
97E Human intelligence collector/Locator  
98K Signal collection/identification specialist

For the most current list, as well as a list of current promotion cut-off scores by military occupational specialty, go to <http://www.persconline.army.mil/sect/CsMar05.htm>

Source: U.S. Army Human Resources Command

atically are limited to 350 points, which in most MOSs is nowhere near enough to be competitive, Purcell said.

But for MOSs with severe shortfalls, soldiers with 350 points could be promoted.

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# Marine Corps may bump its max bonuses

BY JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Marine Corps is considering bumping up the maximum bonuses it offers its enlisted troops by \$5,000, according to Marine Corps officials.

Under the Corps' proposed plan, the max bonuses for Marines would go up to \$35,000 for those in Zone A and \$40,000 for those in Zone B and C, each up \$5,000. Zone A covers those Marines signing their first contract following their initial enlistment.

Zone B includes those with 6 to 10 years

## Enlisted troops would get \$5,000 more

of active service, while Zone C covers Marines with 10 to 14 years of active service.

A final decision on the move isn't expected until this summer and, if approved, won't go into effect until October, when the new fiscal year begins, said 2nd Lt. Tom Dolan, a Marine Corps spokesman.

The decision is made by the deputy commander for manpower and reserve affairs.

The potential increase is still less than the maximum standard re-enlistment bo-

uses offered by the other services, which max out at \$60,000 as dictated by congressional mandates.

Some bonuses for specialties are higher still. Senior special forces troops can earn as much as \$150,000 for re-enlisting.

The idea behind the proposed increase is to keep up with base pay increases that are causing some Marines to get stiffed in bonus money, Dolan said.

Here's how it breaks down:

An E-4, for example, with three to four

years in the Corps has a monthly base pay of \$1,787. If he re-enlists for four years in a specialty receiving the Corps' maximum multiple of five, he'd get a bonus of \$35,742.

"Because the current Zone A maximum is \$30,000, this Marine misses out \$5,742, assuming he was in a tax-free zone," said Dolan. If the bonus is taxed, it would be at the \$30,000 maximum, lowering the total cash in pocket to about \$2,000.

"It makes little sense to offer a Marine a multiple of five when he or she can't receive the benefit of the higher multiple," said Dolan.

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## SmartPay cardholders urged to watch their accounts

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — SmartPay travel cardholders are being warned to watch their accounts after Bank of America lost data tapes with personal information of about 900,000 federal employees, Pentagon officials said.

Secret Service officials are investigating the misplaced tapes, but only began releasing details of the error in the last few days because of security concerns.

Bank representatives and Defense Department officials do not believe any of the information has been misused thus far. The lost information includes names, addresses and social security numbers of federal employees.

In a statement, Bank of America spokeswoman Barbara Desoser said the company deeply regrets the loss of customer information, and "we take our responsibilities for safeguarding it very seriously."

The company will not hold cardholders liable for any unauthorized use of their cards, though no such abuse has been reported yet.

News reports had initially put the number of employees affected at 1.2 million people. Individuals whose information was lost will receive a letter from the company explaining the situation and assuring customers they are monitoring the situation.

The bank has set up a toll-free phone number, (800) 493-8444, where customers can ask additional questions. The company is recommending that all affected cardholders watch their travel accounts and credit reports for unusual activity.

The company has agreed to make free credit reports available to customers upon request.

In a statement, Teresa McKay, the Defense Department's deputy chief financial officer, echoed the bank's advice.

"It's always prudent for any cardholder to monitor their monthly statements and dispute any charges they may question, and also it's important for all of us to get a credit report at least once a year and look at the content of that report," she said.

Pentagon officials said the DOD contracts out about 1 million travel cards annually to Bank of America, and there are no current plans to change that arrangement.

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## Marines to add recruiters over next 2 years

BY JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Marine Corps will add recruiters to its ranks over the next two years as those tasked with selling service in the Corps face an increasingly tough mission, according to Marine Corps officials.

The plan will formalize unofficial increases to the recruiting ranks over the past few years, said Recruiting Command spokesman Maj. Dave Griemser.

Officially, the recruiting rolls will go from 3,008 to 3,433 recruiters, he said. But at any given time over the past five years, the actual numbers of recruiters has been closer to 3,300.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been a drain on the field. Assignments managers in the Corps have had to put orders for recruiting duty for many Marines on hold as their suits have gotten orders for combat duty. But Griemser said the recruiting rolls still are above 3,150 even with that manpower drain.

"This is more of a reshuffling than a big influx of recruiters," said Griemser. "It's something we've been planning for about a year now."

Still, the influx comes as the Corps is struggling with meeting its recruiting goals.

"What the recruiters are telling us is that they have to spend more time with the parents," Marine Corps command Gen. Michael

*"[Parents are] saying, 'It's not maybe a bad idea to join the Marine Corps, but why don't you consider it a year from now, or two years from now. Let's think about this.'"*

Marine Corps command Gen. Michael Hagee

Hagee told reporters last week. "Parents have influence, and rightly so, on the decision these young men and women are going to make."

"[Parents are] saying, 'It's not maybe a bad idea to join the Marine Corps, but why don't you consider it a year from now, or two years from now. Let's think about this.'"

In January, recruiters — for the first time in years — failed to meet their internal goals for signed new contracts, Griemser said, missing the mark by 2 percent, or 84 of the 3,270 volunteers they'd hoped to sign up.

The Marines caution against reading too much into the statistic, as a monthly goal can itself be changed, and is affected by retention, retirements and a host of other factors.

And recruiters exceeded the goal for enlistees that actually shipped out to basic training by roughly same amount.

New recruits can ship out to one year after signing their enlistment contract.

"It's tough out there. People are joining during dangerous times," said Griemser. "Parents are understand-

ably advising caution. But for every potential recruit that is concerned, there also many who come running in because of the danger and sense of duty."

The influx also comes as the Marine Corps looks to increase its overall active-duty rosters from 175,000 to 178,000 this year.

"That's not a direct reason why we're doing this, but it certainly contributes," said Griemser.

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## Stuttgart school's videos help deployed troops tuck in kids

BY BEN MURRAY  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — For some parents and their children, a nightly bedtime story is a beloved ritual that suffers whenever a military mom or dad is deployed downrange.

No "Goodnight Moon," or a reading of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," before the kids get tucked in.

But Stuttgart audio/visual teacher Walter Fritz says it doesn't have to be that way. Last month, Fritz decided to use his department's high-tech equipment and his students' expertise to help solve the problem.

Parents preparing to deploy can now record readings of bedtime stories in the school's studio and have them burned to DVD, complete with visual effects and pictures from the books, Fritz said. Kids can then use the videos after parents deploy to hear a story anytime they want, he said.

The program is similar to one implemented last year in Würzburg as parents in the 1st Infantry Division prepared for a yearlong deployment to Iraq, said Würzburg high school teacher David Flom. He said about 50 Würzburg parents took advantage of the service while it was available.

Fritz said his department has such a



Eight-grade Samantha Roth, 13, dabbles in some visual effects on a control board in the Patch High School audio-visual department in Stuttgart, Germany. The department is the school's nerve center for daily broadcasts and the creation of the annual video yearbook.

BEN MURRAY  
Stars and Stripes

wealth of top-end equipment and talent among the students that he felt he could offer a similar service to the Stuttgart community, while gaining a valuable new teaching tool.

"We want to see the connection between the school and the community interface," Fritz said.

The Stuttgart students will also record and send video messages from children or spouses to their deployed relatives, Fritz said. The services are both offered free of charge and can be used at any time during normal school hours, he said.

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# Army cooks get a taste of what's coming

## Food is getting tastier and more technical for today's warfighter

BY JESSICA INIGO  
Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — The Department of Defense Combat Feeding program offered taste testers Monday the newest individual and unit combat rations during a showcase of the items at Mannheim's 44th Signal Battalion Dining Facility.

About 15 Army cooks at Sullivan Barracks were some of the first soldiers to taste the field-tested and approved food and see the new technology aimed at getting hot, nutritional food to warfighters in the most remote areas.

"This is just a snapshot of some of the cool things we're working

on for the warfighter," Gerald A. Darsch, director of Combat Feeding, said while holding up an adaptor for CamelBaks that boils water straight out of the water pouch. This simple addition provides hot water for coffee and can be put directly into new zip-lock drinking pouches.

During a mini buffet of new Meals, Ready to Eat and Unitized Group Rations, many cooks said they were impressed with the taste.

However, some worried that the new technology, such as the

UGR-Express — known as a "kitchen in a carton," would take them on their jobs. Darsch put the cooks at ease, explaining that



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Department of Defense Combat Feeding program's Kathy-Lynn Evangelos shows soldiers of the 44th Signal Battalion in Mannheim, Germany, some of the new food rations being tested and implemented.

soldiers showed nothing increased morale more in the field than a hot cooked meal.

He said the kitchen in a carton is designed for troops who are in an area where a mobile kitchen trailer cannot be established —

such as places where signal troops deploy.

"Signal battalions sometimes deploy to the most God-forsaken locations. This is a way to get hot chow to these warfighters," Darsch explained.

To heat a full meal for 18, a servicemember simply tugs a string. A chemical reaction begins to heat a couple of entrees, side dishes and a dessert. Serving spoons, utensils, plates and condiments make the kitchen in a carton complete.

As more servicemembers noticed the little buffet line at the back of the chow hall, many discussed how the new flavors lingered on their pallet.

Pfc. John Prye said the buffalo chicken strips were horrible; Sgt. 1st Class Frank Tucker disagreed and said they were nice and spicy. The veal Parmesan got rave reviews by all who tried it.

"Nothing goes in or out of a ration unless it's warfighter tested and warfighter approved," said Kathy-Lynn Evangelos who was dishing out the new chow to the troops.

It might be a year before the troops start getting the new items.

After trying little bits of each meal displayed, Barry Montgomery, a food service work leader at the dining facility who was in the Army for 10 years, said, "Soldiers should be happy. I was always hoping the MREs I ate while in the Army tasted that good."

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## What's being cooked up in the laboratory

The Combat Feeding directorate at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., uses leading-edge technology to ensure troops' feeding requirements are met. New products were displayed Monday at the 44th Signal Battalion Dining Facility in Mannheim, Germany.

Some of the new and developing products include:

■ The First Strike Ration, a compact, eat-on-the-move ration designed to be consumed during the first 72 hours of a conflict. The FSR substantially reduces the weight a soldier must carry — compared to Meals, Ready to Eat — and enhances warfighter physical performance. The ration features carbohydrate- and vitamin-enriched applesauce, energy gels and bars and caffeinated gum.

■ Water purifying system case, a small bag that soldiers will be able to put nonpotable water in and get fresh water out.

■ Electrochemical heaters that convert the hydrogen gas coming off MRE heaters to usable gas to recharge batteries.

— Jessica Inigo

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## Air Force cadet guilty of smuggling steroids

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — An Air Force Academy cadet has been found guilty of smuggling steroids into the United States and distributing them to another cadet, but acquitted of more serious charges that could have meant 66 years confinement.

Cadet First Class Eric M. Swartz also was found not guilty Saturday of both introducing steroids with the intent to distribute and of ingesting hallucinogenic mushrooms and huffing toxic vapors to get high.

Swartz was reprimanded and ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances. The case now will be reviewed by Academy superintendent Lt. Gen. John Rosa before sentencing.

Swartz, a senior now pursuing a medical degree at a school in the Caribbean, is one of two cadets convicted in a steroid investigation that resulted in charges against five cadets. Two others, both athletes, were acquitted. A fifth awaits court-martial.

Swartz's lawyer, Richard Stevens, said he would first seek clemency and then appeal the conviction.

From The Associated Press

## IN THE WORLD

## Lebanon prepares for a new government

BY SAM F. GHATTAS  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Hundreds of protesters blowing whistles and chanting anti-Syrian slogans returned to central Beirut on Tuesday after forcing out the pro-Damascus prime minister and Lebanon's president sought candidates for a new government.

About 400 people marched through downtown demanding the resignation of pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud and the withdrawal of Syrian soldiers. On Monday, 25,000 flag-waving demonstrators demanded — and got — Prime Minister Omar Karami's resignation.

"We will be here every day until the last Syrian soldier withdraws from our land," one activist said through a loudspeaker. The crowd, blowing whistles, chanted back: "Freedom. Sovereignty. Independence."

Opposition leaders — a diverse group of Muslim, Druze and

Christians — were expected to meet later Tuesday to chart their course. It wasn't clear if they would seek to keep up the street pressure or — as some have urged — step back to work through the political process to ensure a new government less tied

*Syria keeps about 15,000 troops in Lebanon and all key political decisions get a stamp of approval from Damascus.*

to Damascus.

Elsewhere in the country, shops, businesses and banks reopened after a one-day strike Monday to protest the Feb. 14 assassination of former prime minister and billionaire businessman Rafik Hariri, whose killing was the catalyst for the massive, peaceful protests demanding Syria release its military and political hold on Lebanon.

Syria keeps about 15,000 troops in Lebanon and all key political

decisions get a stamp of approval from Damascus, but pressure from Lebanon as well as from abroad, including the United States, has led to talk of a troop withdrawal.

At a conference in London, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier called for the withdrawal of the Syrian troops.

"The Lebanese people have very courageously expressed their aspiration for freedom, their aspiration for a sovereign Lebanon."

"The Lebanese want to be masters of their own state," Barnier said.

Rice called on Syria to implement last year's U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, which she said "is very clear" that foreign interference in Lebanon must end. "The Syrians are out of step with where the region is going," she said.

Syria's government has remained silent about the rapidly changing atmosphere in Beirut,



A Lebanese soldier in riot gear helps a fellow soldier Monday after he fell along with opposition demonstrators during a protest against Syria and the Lebanese government in Beirut, Lebanon.

the protests or the resignation.

Syria's state-controlled state media reported the resignation but did not mention the protests against the pro-Syrian government or show pictures on TV or in

newspapers of the massive protests.

Opposition leaders have demanded a neutral government to organize parliamentary elections this spring and to investigate Hariri's murder.

## Abbas condemns Tel Aviv bombing

BY LARA SUKHITIAN  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday condemned last week's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv and promised to chase down and punish the perpetrators, calling them "saboteurs" of peace.

Friday night's bombing killed five people and shattered the relative calm following a Feb. 8 cease-fire declared by the Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Responsibility for the bombing was claimed by the Islamic Jihad in Syria.

Those responsible will face justice, Abbas said at the end of a conference on Palestinian reform here.

"We assure you that we have begun taking a series of actions to find out the saboteurs and those responsible for this operation,

and are chasing them down and punishing them," he said.

The group sponsoring the 2-year-old "road map" peace also said the Palestinians leadership should "bring to justice" those who carried out the Tel Aviv attack.

The peacemaking group, consisting of the United Nations, Russia, the European Union and the United States, also called on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to hold direct dialogue and negotiation to push the peace process forward and not let the current revived momentum flag.

The statement from the Quartet condemned Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, but insisted it must happen "in a manner consistent with the road map" plan of 2003, which envisaged the establishment of a Palestinian state by this year.



Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, right, walks with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas before their talks in London's Downing Street.

At the conference, Abbas pledged to reform the tangled Palestinian security forces — a goal long sought by the international community and considered vital ahead of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank.

"The most important message is our complete readiness to exert 100 percent effort in the domain of security," Abbas said. "To that end, we deployed our troops on the ground and we took a final decision concerning the consolidation of the security agencies."

But Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, interviewed by telephone by Israeli Army Radio from Hungary, said promises are not enough.

"I'm very sorry about the hesitations the Palestinian leadership still has regarding their need to fight terrorism," Shalom said. "As long as they do not take the strategic decision to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, we cannot make real progress toward peace," he said.

The one-day event, hosted by Britain, brought together international figures, from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to senior Arab and European figures.

## Vatican: Pope able to speak

BY BRIAN MURPHY  
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II managed to speak in two languages with a top Vatican official Tuesday in the first clear sign the pontiff was regaining his voice after throat surgery.

The meeting with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger reinforced Vatican statements that the 84-year-old pope was making strides through vocal and respiratory therapy less than a week after receiving a breathing tube.

It also sent a message that John Paul may remain fully engaged in important church affairs from his 10th-floor suite at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital.

"The pope spoke with me in German and in Italian," said Ratzinger, a German who runs a powerful Vatican office that deals with issues of Roman Catholic doctrine. "I am happy to say that the Holy Father is fully alert mentally and also able to say the essential things with his voice."

Ratzinger did not elaborate on what the pope said or how long he spoke, but his rare meeting with reporters strengthened the image the Vatican is putting forward: The pope is rebounding and remains in control.

"He is well. His condition is improving," papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters at the hospital.

## Rice insists on Palestinian overhaul

The Associated Press

LONDON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice insisted on Tuesday that the Palestinians overhaul their security system to counter terrorism and attract help from the United States and other nations.

Rice met privately with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas during a conference on Palestinian security and reform.

"The Palestinian Authority needs to reform its security institutions in order to fight terrorism and lawlessness effectively," she said. "The United

States is prepared to work with partners in the region and around the world to realize this essential goal."

Rice also said that Army Lt. Gen. William Ward, the U.S. general designated to monitor Israel's Palestinian peace efforts, will soon relocate to the region.

Ward, who has been based in Europe, has made one trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories since Rice announced his appointment last month.

Rice also scheduled a meeting Tuesday with Canadian diplomats amid U.S. disenchantment with Ottawa's decision to opt out of an American-led anti-ballistic missile shield program.



# Japan wants astronauts on moon by 2025

## Agency plans to establish manned lunar base

BY AIKO HAYASHI  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Joining a swelling group of countries shooting for the moon, Japan is considering a plan to establish a manned lunar base by 2025, officials said Tuesday.

Officials at Japan's space agency, JAXA, confirmed the mission was under consideration, but said the plan is still being fleshed out and has yet to be formally accepted. A report outlining the plan is expected to be submitted to the government later this month or in early April.

"The building of a manned moon base is part of our long-term plan, looking about 20 years from now," said Hisashi Dobashi, a JAXA official.

"We believe if we keep developing our technologies, a manned space mission will be possible."

If approved, the mission would mark a major change of direction for Japan's space program, which has for decades focused on unmanned, scientific probes.

It also would up the ante in an increasingly heated space race in Asia.

Both China and India have announced moon missions, and President Bush has proclaimed that the United States will return to the moon in the next decade or so and will try to send astronauts to Mars as well.

Dobashi refused to discuss details of the plan, which would require a huge influx of funds. JAXA now has a yearly budget of about \$2 billion — compared with NASA's \$16.2 billion.

According to a report Monday in the Mainichi Shimbun, a major newspaper,



Japan's H-2A rocket with multipurpose satellite payload spews smoke as it lifts off at a launch pad in Tanegashima Space Center in Tanegashima, southern Japan, on Saturday.

JAXA hopes to develop a robot to conduct probes on the moon by 2010, then begin constructing a solar-powered manned re-

search base on the moon and design a reusable manned space vessel like the U.S. space shuttle by 2025.

# Clinton: Tsunami-hit coasts could take four years to rebuild

BY YEOH EN-LAI  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Asian coastlines ravaged by the tsunami will take up to four years to rebuild, former President Bill Clinton said Tuesday, as Indonesian officials announced it could be another six months before a

draft recovery plan is even finished.

Clinton, who recently traveled with another former president, George H.W. Bush, to countries that suffered damage in the tsunami, said hardest-hit Indonesia and Sri Lanka would take the longest to recover.

"I think the long-term rebuild-

ing is challenging," Clinton said during an official stop in Singapore. "It would cost a lot of money and we've got to be prepared for at least three to four years."

Channel News Asia, a television news station in Singapore, quoted Clinton — who is helping to lead the private American re-

lief effort and will soon become the United Nations envoy for tsunami relief — as saying Monday that countries that gave assistance to tsunami survivors must be prepared to do more.

At least 172,000 people died in the tsunami, and at least 125,000 are missing and presumed dead. Most of the victims were in Indonesia's Aceh province.

Indonesia's Aceh province.

In Indonesia, a long-awaited master plan to rebuild the tsunami-shattered province of Aceh could take another six months to draft, a government official said.

Once the blueprint has been approved, only then will the rebuilding begin, said Governor Azwar Abubakar.

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# U.N. discusses sex abuse allegations

Proposal would try accused peacekeepers in country where complaint was filed

BY NICK WADHAMS  
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — A United Nations report on sex abuse by U.N. peacekeepers will propose that suspects face court-martial in the country where the allegations against them were made, a U.N. official said.

The idea is one of several being put forward as the world body confronts widespread allegations the U.N. peacekeepers in Congo and elsewhere had exploited the very people they were meant to protect.

They are accused of committed sexual crimes that include raping children, some as young as 13, and hiring prostitutes.

Currently, U.N. peacekeepers accused of wrongdoing are sent home to be dealt with by their own government authorities. Often, they are never punished.

For the last few months, Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Prince Zeid al Hussein has led an in-

vestigation into the problem and met with U.N. member states on stopping peacekeepers from committing sexual abuse.

A report with his findings is scheduled to be released in the coming days.

According to the proposal in Zeid's report, soldiers accused of wrongdoing would not be allowed to return home. Instead, they would be tried in a court-martial conducted by their own military, but in the country where the accusation originated, the U.N. official said on condition of anonymity.

The official said the proposal would enable the United Nations to do something it should have done a long time ago — fix the system for

holding U.N. peacekeepers accountable.

Allegations of sex abuse and other crimes have dogged U.N. peacekeeping missions almost since their inception in 1948. The United Nations now has a binding code of conduct under which peacekeepers are banned from engaging in sex with girls younger than 18.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan addressed the problem Monday, saying the U.N. would not tolerate sexual exploitation.

"We are taking very firm measures — changing some of the commanders, some of the civilian staff have been disciplined — and we've come up with very strict instructions that they should not fraternize the way they have done in the past," he said.

Ultimately, nations themselves are responsible for their soldiers' behavior. It has been tough to crack down because the United Nations doesn't want to offend the relatively small number of countries willing to provide peacekeepers.



Annan

# Interpol: Bioterror is biggest threat

BY JOCELYN GECKER  
The Associated Press

LYON, France — Interpol sounded an "urgent" warning Tuesday that bioterrorism is the world's greatest security threat and that police across the globe are ill-equipped to handle an attack.

At a meeting hosted by the global police agency, Interpol, police and security officials shied from publicly detailing specific threats, but warned that al-Qaida has clearly stated its intention to use biological weapons and that Iraq has become the breeding ground for terrorist groups.

"There is no criminal threat with greater potential danger to all countries, regions and people in the world than the threat of bioterrorism," Interpol Secretary-General Ronald K. Noble said in opening remarks.

"And there is no crime area where the police generally have as little training than in preventing — or responding to — bioterrorist attacks," Noble added.

More than 500 police and counterterrorism officials from 155 countries flew into Lyon for the conference, badly titled, "Preventing Bioterrorism" — making it what Noble called "the largest meeting of police ever." Interpol is based in the southeastern city of Lyon.

"The threat of bioterrorism is real," Noble said, noting al-Qaida has posted how-to instructions for making biological weapons on the Internet and has stated its intention of using biological or terror weapons for mass murder.

During the two-day meeting, police will examine past attacks, including the anthrax scare that shook the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and the 1995 sarin attacks in the Tokyo subway. Talks will also focus on how to better prevent and prepare for threats and training police to handle them.

Senior officials were expected from the New York Police Department, the U.S. Postal Service, London's Metropolitan Police and from around the world, including Canada, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin proposed creating an international monitoring center — that could be linked to the United Nations and based in France — for monitoring bioterrorist risks and suspicious materials.

# EU health chief unveils anti-smoking campaign

BY RAF CASERT  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union health chief, a former cigarette addict, launched a anti-tobacco drive Tuesday targeted at keeping youngsters from lighting up and helping others kick the habit.

EU Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou also said he wanted other EU nations to join Ireland, Italy and Malta in banning smoking in public places.

Kyprianou said the new campaign — "HELP: For a life without tobacco" — would complement other drives to counter smoking, which he blamed for 650,000 deaths annually across the 25-nation EU.

Kyprianou, a Cypriot, was a heavy smoker until 15 years ago. Giving up at 30, he said, was more difficult than becoming a parliamentarian, minister, or EU Commissioner.

After quitting "I felt so sick for the week after that, and that is what really scared me. That is

what really convinced me that I must have been doing something wrong these past years," he said.

The EU head office also wants governments to put horrific pictures on cigarette packs to frighten smokers into quitting.

Tobacco is the single largest cause of avoidable death in the EU. The Commission said it accounts for 15 percent of all deaths and 25 percent of cancer deaths.

Kyprianou wants more member states to resist opposition from the tobacco lobby and ban smoking in workplaces, restaurants and other public buildings.

The HELP campaign will be targeted at teenagers and twenty-somethings, ages where people might still be prevented from picking up the habit.

Eighty-percent of smokers have picked up the habit in their teenage years, Kyprianou said.

The EU is in a contradictory situation since it is still subsidizing farmers about produce tobacco. Kyprianou said it was a situation he wanted to end, but understood farmers need time to ease into other crops.



Man walks under an inflatable anti-smoking banner Tuesday at Schuman Square in Brussels. The European Union announced a new campaign to urge its citizens to stay away from smoking.

## China protests rights report

BEIJING — China on Tuesday condemned a State Department report criticizing Beijing's human rights record, saying the review was a blow to relations between the countries.

"The United States should stop using double standards on human rights and stop interfering in the internal politics of China under the pretext of human rights."

The report said China continued to commit abuses, especially dissidents and petitioners.

## Hippo kills tourist in Kenya

NAIVASHA, Kenya — An Australian tour-

ist was killed by a hippopotamus at a popular resort in central Kenya, police said Tuesday.

Simon Kiragu, the regional police chief, said the victim was with a group of 12 tourists at Lake Naivasha on Monday night when the hippo attacked. Hippos can kill more people every year in Africa than any other wild animal.

## Germany's unemployment woes

BERLIN — German unemployment rose to a new post-World War II record in February as the number of people without work climbed above 5.2 million, according to government figures released Tuesday.

The jobless figure in Europe's largest economy hit a new record for the second straight

month as a new benefit system that was introduced Jan. 1 once again swelled the ranks of the registered unemployed.

## Cold grip slips Spain

MADRID, Spain — At least five flights were canceled at Barcelona's airport Tuesday and dozens of others were delayed as a cold snap, with temperatures dipping to minus 4 Fahrenheit in parts, gripped much of Spain.

Overnight, hundreds of stranded drivers abandoned their cars and were taken to shelters by ambulance and police four-wheel drive vehicles as snow blocked the A-92 highway near the southern city of Granada.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE STATES

# High court nixes death penalty for juveniles

## Says practice violates Eighth Amendment, overturning 72 sentences nationwide

By HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A closely divided Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that it's unconstitutional to execute juvenile killers, ending a practice in 19 states that has been roundly condemned by many of America's closest allies.

The 5-4 decision throws out the death sentences of 72 murderers who were under 18 when they committed their crimes and bars states from seeking to execute minors for future crimes.

The executions, the court said, violate the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

"The age of 18 is the point where society draws the line for many purposes between childhood and adulthood. It is, we conclude, the age at which the line for death el-

igibility ought to rest," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote.

The ruling continues the court's practice of narrowing the scope of the death penalty, which justices reinstated in 1976. Executions for those 15 and younger when they committed their crimes were outlawed in 1988. Three years ago justices banned death sentences for the mentally retarded.

Tuesday's ruling prevents states from making 16- and 17-year-olds eligible for execution.

Juvenile offenders have been put to death in recent years in only a few other

countries, including Iran, Pakistan, China and Saudi Arabia. Kennedy cited international opposition to the practice.

"It is proper that we acknowledge the overwhelming weight of international opinion against the juvenile death penalty, resting in large part on the understanding that the instability and emotional imbalance of young people may often be a factor in the crime," he wrote.

Kennedy noted most states don't allow the execution of juvenile killers and those that do use the penalty infrequently. The

trend, he said, is to abolish the practice because "our society views juveniles... as categorically less culpable than the average criminal."

In a dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia disputed that there is a trend and chastised his colleagues for taking power from the states.

"The court says in so many words that what our people's laws say about the issue does not, in the last analysis, matter: 'In the end our own judgment will be brought to bear on the question of the acceptability of the death penalty,'" he wrote.

The Supreme Court has permitted states to impose capital punishment since 1976. Twenty-two of the people put to death since then were juveniles when they committed their crimes. Texas executed the most, 13, and also has the most on death row now — 29.

*Twenty-two of the people put to death since the United States reinstated the death penalty in 1976 were juveniles when they committed their crimes.*

## Groups sue Rumsfeld over torture scandal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two human rights groups filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on behalf of eight men allegedly tortured by U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Rumsfeld bears direct responsibility" because he "personally signed off" on policies guiding prisoner treatment, said American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Anthony Romero.

A number of other lawsuits also are pending against Rumsfeld, military commanders and civilian contractors in the abuse scandal, which broke last spring with the disclosure of photographs showing American military men and women abusing prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

At a Washington news conference, the ACLU and Human Rights First said the suit was filed in Rumsfeld's home state of Illinois and alleged the eight men suffered physical and psychological injuries while incarcerated in U.S. detention facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan. It alleged that they were subjected to torture and other cruel and degrading treatment.

## Intel: Bin Laden, al-Zarqawi plan U.S. attacks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden is enlisting his top operative in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, to plan potential attacks on the United States, U.S. intelligence indicates.

Al-Zarqawi, who rivals bin Laden as the nation's public enemy No. 1, has been involved in attacks in the Middle East but has not been known before to have set his sights on the United States.

The Homeland Security Department issued a classified bulletin to officials over the weekend about the intelligence, which spokesman Brian Roehrkasse described Monday as "credible but not specific."

"The intelligence was obtained over the past several weeks, officials said.

The United States has no immediate plans to raise its national terror alert level, Roehrkasse said. However, the intelligence "reiterates the desire by al-Qaida and its associates to target the homeland," he said.

Bin Laden was in contact with al-Zarqawi within the past two months in an effort to enlist him in attacks, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.

Al-Zarqawi is blamed for scores of attacks in Iraq and pledged allegiance to bin Laden

and the al-Qaida network last year. Yet he has had differences with bin Laden, and his efforts are considered somewhat distinct from central al-Qaida operations.

Another administration official with access to the Homeland Security Department's bulletin said the intelligence indicates that al-Qaida has continued to encourage al-Zarqawi, who was born in Jordan, to get involved in terrorist actions against Americans outside of Iraq — including in the United States.

In October, al-Zarqawi made a first-ever pledge of loyalty to bin Laden, by posting a message on a Web site. At the time, U.S. officials believed al-Zarqawi was hoping to appeal to a larger audience.

In January 2004, Kurdish forces in Northern Iraq detained one courier, Hassan Ghul, who was carrying a letter written by al-Zarqawi to bin Laden. In it, al-Zarqawi proposed trying to start a civil war between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite Muslims.



Osama bin Laden



al-Zarqawi

## Federal judge's family killed

CHICAGO — A federal judge who was once the target of a failed murder plot by a white supremacist found two bodies in a pool of blood in her basement, and a source said the victims were her husband and her mother.

U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkoff, 61, found the bodies Monday when she returned home from work, police spokesman Pat Camden said. Authorities gave no in-

dication that the deaths were related to the judge's involvement in the case of white supremacist Matthew Hale, who was convicted in 2004 of soliciting an FBI informant to kill her.

## Judge: Charge or free Padilla

COLUMBIA, S.C. — In a stirring rebuke to the Bush administration, a federal judge ruled the case of "dirty bomb" suspect Jose Padilla

is a matter for law enforcement — not the military — and ordered the government to charge him or let him go.

Padilla's more than 2½ years in custody, most of it spent in a Navy brig, don't seem closer to an end, however, because Justice Department spokesman John Nowacki said the government will appeal.

The government views Padilla as a militant who planned attacks on the United States.

From The Associated Press

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# Jackson's defense opens with attacks on evidence, family

BY TIM MOLLOY  
The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Authorities investigating allegations of child molestation against Michael Jackson found no DNA from his accuser when they searched the pop star's bedroom, his attorney told the jury Tuesday.

The lack of such evidence shows the molestation claims are false, Thomas Mesereau Jr. said as he continued an opening statement countering the case laid out by District Attorney Tom Sneddon on Monday.

The trial was expected to move into testimony later in the day, with the prosecution calling British journal Martin Bashir. He made the documentary "Living With Michael Jackson," in which Jackson held hands with the then-13-year-old boy who eventually accused him and in which the pop star said he let children sleep in his bed.

Bashir, who has fought the prosecution's plan to put him on the stand, arrived at court accompanied by lawyers.

Mesereau also attacked the credibility of the accuser's mother and depicted the alleged vic-

tim, now 15, and his brother as troublemakers while at Jackson's Neverland ranch, where the molestation allegedly occurred.

The attorney said the mother was using the criminal charges to build a civil case in order to get a financial payoff.

Mesereau said the woman's attorney, Larry Feldman, had a lunch with CNN

program host Larry King during which Feldman said of the woman, "She wants money."

Feldman also represented a boy who accused Jackson of molestation in 1993. That boy received a multimillion-dollar settlement from Jackson and no charges were filed in that matter.

The defense attorney also addressed allegations that Jackson showed sexually explicit images and gave alcohol to his accuser and his brother.

Mesereau said the children were sometimes "out of control" at Neverland and read Jackson's magazines and broke into his alcohol without his permission.

"Mr. Jackson will freely admit that he does read girls' magazines from time to time," Mesereau said. "He absolutely does not show them to children."

## Trial re-enactments

LOS ANGELES — The start of the Michael Jackson trial also means the start of the Michael Jackson trial, the TV version.

With cameras banned from the courtroom where Jackson is being tried on molestation charges, E! Entertainment Television will re-enact highlights of the previous day beginning Tuesday.

Studio A at the Wilshire Boulevard headquarters of E! has been turned into a courtroom in which actors, including Ed-mund Mosse as Jackson, will play out about 15 daily minutes of the trial.

— The Associated Press

# Millionaire pilot Fossett tries to set a new record

The Associated Press

SALINA, Kan. — Millionaire pilot Steve Fossett, alone, flew himself in a balloon, reported little turbulence Tuesday as he crossed over northern Africa in his attempt to become the first to complete a nonstop, solo airplane flight around the world.

"At this time everything is going very well, I'm very happy with the situation and I think we've got a good chance," Fossett said in his last call from the plane, according to his Web site.

Fossett, 60, took off on his solo venture Monday and hoped to complete the trip Thursday. Traveling at about 390 mph, he was flying at nearly 45,000 feet Tuesday morning and was expected to climb to 47,000, his Web site said.

Now, Fossett's biggest challenge is staying on course — an awake — during the 66-hour journey in the experimental GlobalFlyer.

He also has to stave off hunger; he planned to survive the trip by slurping diet milkshakes.

Fossett launched his single-engine jet from the Salina Municipal Airport on Monday evening.

"It was obviously an emotional moment and the most dangerous part of the journey," said Virgin Atlantic founder Sir Richard Branson, who financed the venture.

"It was an enormous relief when it actually came off the ground."

Besides being the first to fly solo nonstop around the world, Fossett will attempt to break seven other aviation records, including the longest flight by a jet aircraft.



Fossett



Snow falls on the bronze statue "Waiting" by J. Seward Johnson Jr. on Front Street in Harrisburg, Pa., on Monday. March's first snowstorm moved up the East Coast on Monday and left several inches of snow across New England on Tuesday.

AP

# Big snow has little impact

The Associated Press

School breaks in New Hampshire, a state holiday in Vermont and warnings to stay home in Maine helped northern New England welcome March's first snowstorm with relatively little distress Tuesday morning.

As much as a foot of snow was expected in some parts, prompting hundreds of schools not already closed for break to cancel classes or delay opening.

Transportation departments in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont said the morning commute was tough, but better than it could have been thanks to school vacations and other factors that kept some drivers off the roads.

"The school vacation week is helping quite a bit; the [school] buses aren't out there," said Bill Boynton, spokesman for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. "There was quite a bit of advance notice, too, of this being an overnight storm, and people may have planned accordingly."

The storm hit on Vermont's Town Meeting Day, a holiday for state government, many schools and some businesses. But officials feared that also would result in lower attendance at the meetings, at which residents vote on budgets and local issues.

By morning, more than 6 inches had fallen in southern Vermont, but only about 3 inches in the Burlington area. Totals were expected to reach a foot by the time the storm winds down Wednesday.

In Maine, state government workers were told to stay home. In Portland, a parking ban in effect until noon left downtown streets deserted.

Maine officials warned residents to be prepared for travel disruptions and power outages. A number of flights were canceled at the Portland International Jetport and Central Maine Power reported a handful of power outages.

A few cars slid off snowy roads morning, but state police reported no serious accidents.

As of 8 a.m., Maine's biggest snowfall totals were in Norridgewock, Westbrook, Gray, Durham and Auburn, where about 8 inches were recorded. Augusta, Jay, and Camden had 7 inches of snow, while lesser amounts were recorded elsewhere.

In Portland, the crew at WCHS-TV's Storm Center tried to have some fun with the snow. Anchors Sharon Rose and Lee Nelson, along with weather forecaster Kevin Mannix, appeared in Hawaiian-style flowered shirts and leis as they informed viewers about weather conditions and school and business closings.

"We've had so many of these storms. We were tired of having to say the same old thing over and over again. So we decided to put a new spin on it," Nelson said.

Even before the storm, Maine's largest city was nearly two feet ahead of normal for snowfall so far this season. Portland had recorded nearly 72 inches of snow as of Monday, before the latest snowfall began.

# BTK suspect charged with 10 counts of murder

The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Dennis Rader, the churchgoing family man and Cub Scout leader accused of leading a double life as the BTK serial killer, was charged Tuesday with 10 counts of first-degree murder.

Rader made his first court appearance since his Friday arrest by videoconference from his cell at the Sedgewick County detention center. During the brief hearing,

Rader sat with his hands folded behind a small desk.

The BTK killer, whose nickname stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill," was suspected of eight deaths beginning in 1974, but authorities said Saturday they had linked two additional victims to the serial killer.

Rader's arrest has also prompted nearby law enforcement agencies through Kansas to reinvestigate any cold cases that bear similarities to the string of slayings.

Sedgewick County District Judge Greg Waller read the charges during the hearing, which lasted about five minutes. A preliminary hearing was set for March 15, when Rader is likely to be arraigned.

Rader's only comments during the hearing were short "yes" and "no" answers to questions.

He was accompanied at the hearing by a temporary attorney. Waller appointed the state's public defender office to represent Rader.

## Lighters now banned from flights

WASHINGTON — Airline passengers can no longer bring cigarette lighters onto planes or in any secure areas, the Homeland Security Department announced.

Lighters were added to the prohibited items list because of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, which President Bush signed on Dec. 17.

The Transportation Security Administration, the agency charged with prohibiting dangerous items on aircraft, said Monday that lighters will be banned from planes and areas beyond security checkpoints at airports.

The TSA said battery, absorbed-fuel (Zip-type), electric/butane-powered and novelty lighters were included in the ban.

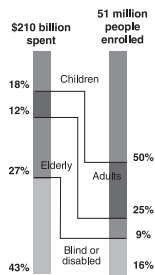
The rule will be enforced beginning April 14.

The Associated Press



## Medicaid enrollees

Medicaid largely has benefited low-income elderly and people with disabilities."



\*In 2002, excludes disproportionate share hospital payments, vaccines for children and administrative costs.

SOURCE: National Conference of State Legislatures

# Governors seek Medicaid options

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Governors struggling to revamp Medicaid and avert federal spending cuts hope to convince the Bush administration that widespread state experiments would save money and could launch a model for nationwide reforms.

They hope to echo the welfare reform movement that grew out of state efforts a decade ago, but they agree this will be tougher.

"It's two or three layers more complex than welfare reform," said Democrat Mark Warner of Virginia, who's helping lead the discussions among governors and with the Bush administration.

Warner and other governors who met Monday with President Bush warned that the states can't handle \$40 billion in cuts that the administration's budget seeks over the next decade without damaging health care for their poorest citizens.

What's needed, governors con-

## States focus on flexibility to experiment with program

tend, is broader, systemic reform to the state-federal program that provides health care to 53 million people — children, poor, elderly and disabled.

**"If the president wants Medicaid reform, then he needs to have a reform, then he needs to have a reform discussion that's not driven by an arbitrary number."**

Gov. Janet Napolitano, Arizona, Democrat

They hoped to come closer to a compromise between their ideas and the Bush budget as they finished four days of talks at the winter meeting of the National Governors Association.

Governors said they heard a willingness from Bush to broaden the idea.

"We want Medicaid to work," Bush told them. "The system needs to be reformed and we want to work with governors." But the president also empha-

sized his plan to close accounting loopholes that the administration contends cheats taxpayers.

"We put that on the table for discussion, so that the system works the way it's supposed to work," he said.

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, a Democrat, said the president

was too focused on a specific figure that would help reduce the federal deficit. "If the president wants Medicaid reform, then he needs to have a reform discussion that's not driven by an arbitrary budget number," she said.

Republican Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi put it this way: "Policy should drive the budget, but the budget shouldn't drive policy."

Medicaid costs have soared in recent years, driven by health care costs, an aging population that relies largely on Medicaid to pay for nursing homes, and a recession that sent more people to state-supported health care.

This year, Medicaid will cost an estimated \$329 billion.

A deal, either among governors or between governors and Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, has proved elusive.

## Man shot while 50 Cent appears at radio station

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A 24-year-old Los Angeles man was shot in the leg Monday night in the lobby of a Manhattan radio station while rapper 50 Cent was making an on-air appearance there, police said.

It wasn't immediately clear how badly the unidentified man was injured in Monday's shooting, which occurred at WQHT-FM, or Hot 97, on Hudson Street, police spokesmen Sgt. Kevin Farrell said.

Officials said he was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital and was list-



50 Cent

ed in stable condition.

Police did not know if the rapper was connected with the shooting. However, Newsday reported early Tuesday on its Web site that the shooting occurred shortly after 10 p.m. when 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, announced that he was dropping his protégé The Game from his hip-hop circle, G-Unit.

The victim was also said to be a member of 50 Cent's entourage. 50 Cent, who was at the station promoting the Thursday release of his new album "The Massacre," was not harmed in the incident.

No arrests had been made; however, police are continuing to investigate the incident.

Representatives for 50 Cent and his label, Interscope Records, were not immediately available for comment.

## Critics take aim at California governor's 'propaganda' video

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A Schwarzenegger administration video packaged like a TV news story is promoting regulations that give workers the choice of taking a meal break or going home early — and has labor leaders and one lawmaker outraged.

Democratic Assemblyman Paul Koretz suggested Monday that the video violated a ban on spending tax money to produce propaganda — and said he would ask the attorney general's office to investigate.

Koretz claimed at least five TV stations ran the video verbatim.

"If a television station is lazy enough just to take this video [and run it], it completely manipulates and skews the story," Assemblyman Paul Koretz said.

A spokesman for the Schwarzenegger administration, Rick Rice, said the video was "just a news release." "We don't think this is political ... nor is it propaganda," he said. "It's just a news release on an issue the labor unions are completely opposed to."

The proposed regulations are an interpretation of a law mandating that employers must provide at least a 30-minute meal break in the first five hours of an employee's shift.

"If the employer says, 'Nobody around here really takes their meal period; we all just kind of like to work through lunch,' the worker who wants to take their meal break is going to be intimidated," said Barry Broad, a lobbyist for several labor unions.



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION/AP photos

Ohio death row inmates Maxwell White, left, and Richard Cooley tried to escape from the Mansfield Correctional Institution on Feb. 3. The attempt, using a ladder made of bed linens and magazines, was thwarted. A report about the attempt was critical of prison staff.

## Guards faulted in inmate escape try

BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Unnoticed by guards in one of Ohio's most secure prisons, two death row inmates built a ladder from bed sheets and rolled-up magazines. They also managed to make a tool to break through metal fences and hoard candy bars and water.

The planned prison break by convicted killers Richard Cooley and Maxwell White in February was thwarted at the last minute, when alarm bells sounded. But a report released Monday found it shouldn't have happened at all because a death row unit manager was tipped off ahead of time by an informant.

The report, released at the request of The Associated Press, said a complacent staff and "gross deficiencies" in supervision of inmates were responsible for the Feb. 3 incident at Mansfield Correctional Institution.

tion. The report was issued by the state Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Cooley, 37, is on death row for raping and killing two college students in 1986. White, 39, was convicted of killing a state highway trooper in January 1996.

The inmates fashioned a 13½-foot ladder from blankets and hid it ahead of time under a pile of snow, the prison system said. The ladder's rungs were made of rolled-up magazines and newspapers.

When caught, both had water, candy bars, matches, extra clothing, an exercise mat and a homemade tool designed to break through fences, the report said.

The death row unit manager was tipped on Jan. 20 and Feb. 1 and told the prison's security chief both times, but the information was never passed on to the warden, the report said.

Eleven people are being disciplined, including a warden, who will receive a letter of reprimand, Dean said.

## Tourist dies after leaping off tour boat

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A tourist on a whale-watching cruise died Monday after jumping into the ocean about half a mile off Maui Island, authorities said.

The 22-year-old Japanese man leaped off the boat, the American Dream, while the tour boat was stationary, observing a pair of whales about 125 yards away, owner Dream Cruises said. He was pronounced dead at Straub Clinic & Hospital.

The man's name was being withheld until his family is notified, the company said.

One of two crew members who went into the water in an effort to save the man was slightly injured. They were in the water 10 minutes before the ship circled and picked them up.

"All of us at Dream Cruises are shocked and deeply saddened by this tragic event, and our hearts go out to this man's family," company President Mike Watson said. "We are in contact with the family, and have offered whatever assistance they may need."

In 2003, a 3-year-old boy died aboard the 77-foot American Dream when the vessel collided with a humpback whale off Oahu.

Ryder Hamilton, of Norfolk, Va., suffered fatal head and neck injuries when he hit the handrail and deck during a Christmas Day whale-watching cruise.

Dream Cruises was recently fined \$5,500 in connection with the Hamilton incident. The company also settled a lawsuit filed by the Hamilton family for an undisclosed amount.

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## MPs don't get recognition

Military police are asking for a helping hand and a voice to be heard. I think we deserve something other than cop jokes for our contribution to the war [in Iraq].

I have a real big problem with this new [Close Combat Badge]. I am glad others are getting the recognition for their actions during Operations Iraqi Freedom I, II and III. I am a two-time OIF participant. As a military policeman, I strongly believe it is not fair that the MP corps is not getting its fair share of recognition. We are expected to accomplish many duties, such as the garrison police work, at our home stations that include jobs such as dog handlers, military police investigation, traffic and many others.

Then, when it comes to our combat — yes, I said combat — mission, I think we deserve this honor of wearing the new badge. I have participated in many combat patrols that included countless enemy engagements and made in many cities. If I recall, infantry does the same thing; we just do it mounted.

Know many MPs who have seen more combat time than most infantry, combat engineer or artillery soldiers. Artillery soldiers are being cross-trained to be MPs for a good reason. Someone has to please be the voice of the oh-so-forgotten, but always short-handed, always used and abused, military police.

Sgt. Alejandro Torres  
 Iraq

## Change criteria for new badge

I am responding to "Army creates badge for non-infantry GIs" (article, Feb. 15).

I am glad to see the Army is finally doing something to recognize all soldiers who have been pulled from our military oc-

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Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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occupational specialties to become infantry soldiers who fight in Iraq. However, it's apparent that another injustice is about to be done to thousands of soldiers if the current proposed criteria remains.

I am currently a 63M [Bradley fighting vehicle mechanic] who has been pulled from the motor pool to patrol the streets of Baghdad as an infantry soldier. I am a patrol leader of a platoon that consists of mechanics, cooks, nuclear, biological and chemical noncommissioned officers; and a few 13-series soldiers.

My battery has three combat platoons, which consist of all support specialties. I can think of three that are of the 13 series. Our daily job is to go outside the wire to find and engage the enemy. These soldiers are just a few of the thousands who did every day.

If the brass in Washington think that 12, 13 and 19 series soldiers are the only ones out there risking their lives, they need to come to Iraq and open their eyes.

## Illegal immigration's dominoes of woe

The Rio Grande Valley, where Texas meets Mexico, is the poorest region in the United States, yet people clamor to live there. The thing is, most of the people moving in aren't Americans but Mexicans — many in the United States illegally.

While much is made of the benefits that this low-wage labor brings to employers, little is said about its costs to society. Illegal immigration is no free lunch, and it's time we had an honest discussion of the matter.

Regulating who lives and works in the United States is a federal responsibility. Communities across America struggle with the expense of providing hospital care to illegal immigrants and schooling for their children. For the border states, these burdens weigh heavily.

In Texas, for example, the number of illegal residents has jumped 17 percent since

1996, to an estimated 1.2 million. The closer you get to the border, the crazier the situation becomes. Four of America's 10 poorest metropolitan regions lie along the Texas-Mexico border.

Some 400,000 people live in what are called colonias along the border in Texas. These unincorporated shantytowns often lack water, sewer systems, electricity and paved roads. The colonias residents pay little if any taxes but use the schools and other public services.

It's important to recognize that illegal residents don't just add to the numbers of poor; they also bring down the wages and economic opportunities of the legal residents.

While America's problems caused by illegal immigration are most evident at the Mexican border, the solution lies elsewhere. No number of U.S. Border Patrol jeeps can stop the flow of poor people seeking jobs in the U.S. employers can do this.

And what about the military police? Are they sitting here in Iraq twiddling their thumbs?

I hope the criteria is changed from what has been suggested. Everyone who went outside the wire to engage the enemy deserves the same recognition, regardless of their MOS. If you won't admit we're doing the same job, pull us off the streets now.

Staff Sgt. Patrick McMillen  
 Camp Falcon, Iraq

## Iraqi Guard lacks protection

I am writing in regard to the lack of armor protection the Iraqi National Guard has against improved explosive devices and small-arms threats.

U.S. and coalition forces enjoy the protection of up-armored Humvees and other armored vehicles, while ING forces ride in the back of pickup trucks. I am sure we will eventually ensure these forces have up-armored Humvees, but a quicker and more economical solution is at hand.

On the outskirts of Baghdad are large graveyards of Iraqi armor from Saddam Hussein's old regime. There are several types of armored cars, such as BRDMs and BTR-70s, that could be put back into service. They could be resupplied, and a patrol maintained, by members of coalition forces that use the same vehicles. This would benefit Iraqi forces and countries such as Bulgaria or Poland, whose economies could use a boost by producing armored car parts.

I witnessed firsthand, ING troops operating out of the backs of pickup trucks, in our small patrol sector in west Baghdad. To my knowledge, the BTR family of vehicles is less expensive and better protected than an up-armored Humvee. So why make the ING wait?

Staff Sgt. William L. Quantrelle  
 Victory Base, Iraq

For once illegal immigrants get past the border, Washington does almost nothing to stand between them and American jobs.

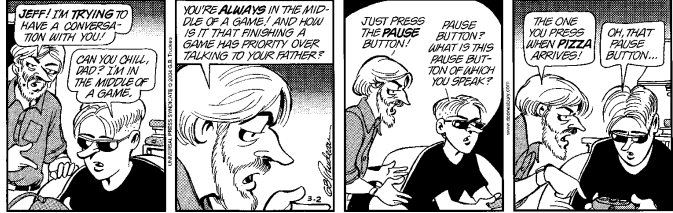
A serious effort to penalize law-breaking American employers would end the problem immediately.

Meanwhile, with jobs drawing undocumented workers to the United States, pressure is lessened on the often-corrupt political and economic leaders of their home countries to improve the lot of people there.

If America needs more foreign workers than legal limits allow, then the policy should be to expand legal immigration. But because the administration, Congress and federal agencies seem to wink at illegal immigration, a class of workers is developing that is underpaid and also hurts the economic prospects of all low-skilled workers. This result may please some employers, but it is not good for those Americans who must compete with illegal immigrants, or for all Americans who pay taxes to support them.

By GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doonesbury Flashbacks



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# OPINIONS

## What higher-education hypocrisy teaches us

The saga of Ward Churchill illustrates why there is no greater consumer fraud in America today than "higher" education.

Jack Kelly

Churchill was until recently the chairman of the department of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado. He resigned the post after it came to light that he had likened those killed in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, to Nazi war criminals.

Churchill's sentiments are not rare on college faculties these days, but most such anti-American diatribes pass the public's radar. Churchill

had the misfortune of having his remarks come to the attention of Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, who took umbrage — as did his audience.

The uproar has brought to light other facts about Churchill that are embarrassing to the University of Colorado.

Churchill's academic credentials are poor. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from then-Sangamon State University, a diploma mill in Springfield, Ill., but not the doctorate normally considered *de rigueur* for a full professor. CU bypassed normal procedures to grant Churchill tenure. It wasn't because of his scholarship. Thomas Brown, a professor of sociology at Lamar University in Texas, said Churchill made up "facts" in a paper he wrote asserting the Indian intentionally created a smallpox epidemic among the Mandan tribe in 1837, and then attributed these "facts" to so-called "normal" procedures of the kind. University of New Mexico law pro-

fessor John Lavelle said Churchill made up stuff in an article on federal law concerning American Indian lands.

Churchill was hired and promoted because he claimed to be Cherokee. The Cherokees say he isn't, and researchers for the Rocky Mountain News have been unable to find a drop of Indian blood among his ancestors. Churchill is still a professor at CU, but Colorado Gov. Bill Owens wants him fired, and the regents are considering it.

Churchill says his First Amendment right to free speech is being violated. But this claim is as phony as Churchill's Indian heritage and his scholarship. The First Amendment says the government can't put you in jail for what you say. But nothing in the Constitution guarantees you the right to a \$96,000-a-year job at taxpayer expense.

If I were to write in this column that the editor of the newspaper where I work is an idiot, the government wouldn't put me in jail. But I'd soon be unemployed.

Some 200 professors at CU have bought a newspaper ad demanding that the inquiry into Churchill be dropped. "It's going to be extremely difficult, if academic freedom is on the block, for us to hire and keep good faculty members," said Margaret LeCompte, an education professor.

But Churchill's defenders are highly selective in defending free speech, as the controversy over Lawrence Summers at Harvard illustrates.

At a conference in January, Summers noted that despite vigorous efforts to recruit women for vacancies, the faculty in the hard sciences and higher mathematics remained overwhelmingly male. Summers speculated that this might in part be due to a difference in cognitive skills between men and women. Men, he said, are more likely to be either math geniuses or math dunces, while mathe-



matic reasoning skills are more evenly distributed among women.

MIT biology professor Nancy Hopkins said she was made ill by the remarks, providing a real-life example of the misogynist stereotype of the little woman with the vapors. Andrea Peyser, who writes for the New York Post, said Summers had said men were more intelligent than women. That was not at all what he said, but Peyser's inability to follow Summers' argument lends support to the thesis as she stated it.

As it happens, researchers at the University of New Mexico and the University of Cali-

fornia, Irvine have demonstrated through a study of brain scans that men and women do process information differently.

Churchill is lionized for saying vile and untrue things about his country and countrymen. Summers is hounded for saying something nonpejorative that is demonstrably true. This is the status of free speech on campuses today.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

## It's no stretch to see significance in '05 Oscar wins

BY BRUCE DANCIS  
Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

When Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American actress to win an Academy Award, for her memorable portrayal of Mammy in the 1939 epic "Gone With the Wind," she and her date had to sit by themselves at the back of the Coccato Grove nightclub in Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel, where the awards were given out. McDaniel was not allowed to sit with producer David O. Selznick and the rest of the "Gone With the Wind" entourage.

Fast forward to the 2005 Academy Awards in the Kodak Theatre, where for the first time in history, people of color were nominated in all four of the acting categories. And five black or Latina actors nominated — Jamie Foxx for "Collateral" as well as "Ray," Don Cheadle and Sophie Okonedo for "Hotel Rwanda," Morgan Freeman for "Million Dollar Baby" and Catalina Sandino Moreno for "Maria Full of Grace" — was an all-time record.

Foxx's emergence as a top-ranked actor and now, an Academy Award winner, shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who has followed his growth in show business. Beginning with his first appearances on the comedy show "In Living Color" in the 1990s, Foxx has taken on more and more challenging dramatic roles, from "Any Given Sunday" and "Ali" to "Collateral" and "Ray."

Yet it is a measure of the strength of 2005's nominated performances by African-American men that one could argue that the more worthy nominee lost in the best actor and best supporting actor categories.

Cheadle's performance as Paul Rusesabagina, the real-life hotel manager in "Hotel

Rwanda," is an indelible portrait of a man felled by circumstances and his own social conscience to heroically save more than 1,000 men, women and children from being slaughtered during the 1994 civil war in Rwanda.

As good as Foxx was in embodying the mannerisms and style of Ray Charles, Cheadle may have had the more demanding, challenging role. And after delivering one searing performance after another in such films and TV movies as "Devil With the Blue Dress," "Boogie Nights," "Bulworth," "Out of Sight," "The Rat Pack" and "A Lesson Before Dying," Cheadle was more than deserving of Academy recognition.

Foxx may actually have given his best performance of the year as the taxi driver in "Collateral," where he was nominated for best supporting actor rather than lead actor,

even though he, rather than Tom Cruise, is the actual star of the movie and has more on-screen time than any other character.

Still, Freeman's best supporting actor award for portraying a retired boxer in "Million Dollar Baby" was long overdue. Freeman has been considered one of Hollywood's finest actors for years, having racked up previous Oscar nominations for 1987's "Street Smart," 1989's "Driving Miss Daisy" and 1994's "The Shawshank Redemption."

As for the women, both Moreno and Okonedo were long shots. As good as Moreno is in "Maria Full of Grace," it would have been difficult for the Academy to give a very best actress Oscar to anyone making her very first screen appearance — as the young Colombian actress was.

On the other hand, the London-born Okonedo, a best supporting actress nominee for her performance as Cheadle's wife in

"Hotel Rwanda," deserved every consideration. Okonedo, who was also terrific as a prostitute in 2003's "Dirty Pretty Things," excels here in a demanding, pivotal role. But she was probably too little known by Academy voters to have had much of a chance.

The wins for Foxx and Freeman made this year's awards the most socially significant since 2001 when Denzel Washington ("Training Day") and Halle Berry ("Monster's Ball") won best actor and best actress awards. Sidney Poitier received an honorary award and Whoopi Goldberg hosted.

Despite the expanding racial progress in the movies, Hollywood still needs to make major strides in opening up jobs in the film industry to more people of color, particularly technical jobs and boardroom positions. We'll know when the film industry has made a dramatic, permanent change for the better when the casts of Hollywood movies begin to look like the American people.

### Mallard Fillmore



"Freedom of Speech!"  
Our constitutional right to speak freely, unless we might offend absolutely any group of people anywhere, except, of course, for white males, evangelical Christians or other groups that it's okay to offend 'til the cows come home.



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

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## Priest sentenced

**CT** NEW BRITAIN — A Roman Catholic priest from Poland was sentenced to nine months in prison for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl.

The Rev. Roman Kramiec was arrested in 2002 after the teen said the priest attacked her while counseling her for a prior assault. Kramiec told police sex was part of her therapy.

## Rabbit farms multiplying

**AL** MARBURY — Rabbit farms are multiplying rapidly across the South, and their products could soon be on the menu for Easter Sunday or any other day of the week as more people discover the lean, white meat.

"It tastes like chicken," said 11-year-old Brady Cox. "And you can fix it any way chicken can be fixed," added his grandfather, Wayne Powell.

Powell helps his three grandsons run the family's business on their small farm 20 miles north of Montgomery. They started in September with only a few rabbits. Now they have 500.

J.C. Holt, president of the Tri-State Rabbit Producers Association, said the organization began in 2003 with two members.

Now it has 248 in Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi.

## Prank call alleged

**RI** COVENTRY — A Coventry fire department has begun an internal investigation after a firefighter was accused of calling dispatch and pretending to be the town council vice president.

Police say a Washington Fire District firefighter made the call, and it was recorded. The firefighter is not named, and it's unknown what was on the call. Richard Sanetti, the official who was allegedly impersonated, said the firefighter admitted making the call.

It's illegal to impersonate a public officer under state law.

## Grandparents sue condo

**FL** NAPLES — A southwest Florida couple is suing a condominium association with the help of the state, claiming a condo policy is discriminatory because they weren't allowed to have their grandchildren stay with them for a week or longer.

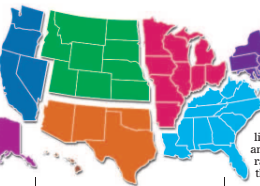
The state Attorney General's Office is representing Richard and Jean Quinn in their case against Windemere Inc.

## Jackpot garnishing

**NJ** ATLANTIC CITY — The New Jersey Legislature has passed a measure aimed at preventing gamblers who owe child support in the state from keeping big slot machine jackpots to themselves.

The bill would require slots operators to give names, addresses and Social Security numbers of major winners to the state, to uncover deadbeat parents and deduct what they owe before the jackpot is paid out.

Welcomed by advocates for children, the measure was criticized as onerous and unfair by a casino lobbyist. "We think anyone who



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

owes child support should pay it, but having private businesses doing the state's job is just wrong," said Frank Fahrenkopf Jr., president of the American Gaming Association.

The law would apply to people who win at table games or to those who win low-level slot jackpots. It also would not apply to non-New Jersey residents.

## Meth fears fuel food ban

**IA** MOUNT PLEASANT — School District officials want to ban homemade goodies for classroom sharing beginning next fall because of fears children will bring methamphetamine residue from their homes.

A methamphetamine specialist for the Iowa Department of Human Services said homes where the drug is produced may be permeated with toxins.

## Cold War relic must go

**ME** MOSCOW — It's a dinosaur of the Cold War: a 3-mile-long radar system designed to detect Soviet bombers screaming across the Atlantic.

The Over-The-Horizon Backscatter Radar, often described as the world's largest radar, was developed over 25 years for \$1.5 billion and occupies an area nearly twice the size of New York's Central

Park. When operational, it could monitor a massive swath of ocean and warn of threats nearly 2,000 miles away.

Built in both Maine and Oregon, the radars picked up readings as far as 1,700 miles off both coasts. But like outdated warhead silos and other relics of the arms race, the military is scrapping the wire-and-steel monoliths.

The radar in Maine was operational for a mere year in the early 1990s before being mothballed.

## Self-defense or murder?

**PA** BETHLEHEM — A woman accused of beating to death her live-in boyfriend with a metal baseball bat felt threatened by him, her attorney said at the start of her trial.

Richele Abraham, 51, of Bethlehem, is charged with killing Dennis Wampole Sr., 56, on Dec. 21, 2003.

Abraham told police Wampole was abusive, and a psychologist will testify that Abraham "acted out of a perception that she was in danger, whether it was a reasonable perception or not," defense attorney James Connell said.

Prosecutor John Obrecht told jurors that Wampole was "laid down in bed, probably sleeping or trying to sleep, when Abraham killed him." "His skull was completely shattered into numerous pieces," Obrecht said. He said the killing was malicious and premeditated, and constituted first-degree murder.

## Destructive fire

**HI** KAHULUI — Maui fire investigators were searching for the cause of a fire that destroyed three stores in the Kahului Shopping Center.

Deputy Chief Neal Bal said there was so much smoke and heat damage to the remaining stores that he doubted they would reopen anytime soon.

A Salvation Army thrift store and Ah Fook's Super Market were initially destroyed in the fire that started in or near the thrift store, Bal said. The blaze was nearly contained when it flared up, jumped across a breezeway and destroyed TJ's Oriental Food Mart & Fast Food, he said, adding that flames briefly spread to the roof of the nearby Kahului Library.

## Conditions ripe for virus

**MA** FRAMINGHAM — The heavy snows and rains this winter could lead to an increase in mosquito-borne eastern equine encephalitis cases this year, according to officials who monitor and control mosquito populations.

David Henley, superintendent for the Eastern Massachusetts Control Project which covers about half the MetroWest area, said the mosquitoes that spread the illness spend the winter in their larval state, where they depend on moist conditions.

Ground water levels which keep wetlands and mosquito breeding grounds full are above normal this year, and soil conditions are extremely moist throughout New England, according to the National Weather Service's latest spring flood report.



**He's going to be fine** Veterinary technician Octavia Bennett comforts a stray dog found with an arrow in its head. The young adult dog, tentatively named Easton after the brand of arrow, is in stable condition at the Cedar Animal Medical Center in Gallup, N.M. The arrow, which didn't puncture the brain, was removed and Easton will be made available for adoption after recuperating. A reward is offered to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the individual who harmed the dog.



**Learning young** Young fishermen Cody Stock, left, and Tyler VanWatermolen, both 11, wait for nibbles on Lake Waconia in Waconia, Minn. Despite 50 degree temperatures, they fished through ice that was two feet thick.



**Grace and beauty** A great blue heron flies through the light of the rising sun along the Tomoka River in Ormond Beach, Fla.

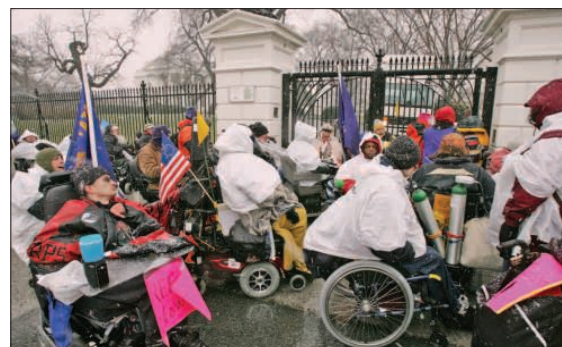




**'Gates' coming down** Workers take down some of the 7,503 gates that made up "The Gates," an art installation created by artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude lining 23 miles of New York's Central Park. The thousands of tons of steel, orange plastic and saffron-colored nylon fabric are to be recycled as everything from paint rollers and steel reinforcing bar to PVC pipe.



**Clearing the path** A North Carolina Department of Transportation snow-plow truck rumbles through downtown Boone, N.C., during a large snowstorm. The storm left about 4,000 residents of Watauga County without power.



**Making their voices heard** Members of the American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today block the gates in front of the White House during a demonstration in Washington calling for passage of legislation that requires states to provide alternatives to institutions for people who could otherwise live in the community.

## Unclogging route

**MA** BOSTON — Temporary ramps carrying Route 3 traffic to and from the Sagamore Bridge and bypassing the off-clogged rotary below are expected to be completed before Cape Cod's tourist rush begins on Memorial Day weekend, a state transportation official said.

The state broke ground on the \$58.2 million highway project replacing the Sagamore rotary in Bourne with a direct connection from Route 3 to the Sagamore Bridge. The rotary, built in the 1930s, exceeded its 40,000 daily capacity long ago and now sees about 90,000 cars a day. During summer, the rotary routinely produces week-end backup of 5 miles or more.

## Teen skier held in death

**WY** JACKSON — A Maryland teenager was charged with manslaughter after a fatal collision with a skier from Shrewsbury, Mass., at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.

Authorities would not release the name or hometown of the snowboarder, who also was charged with reckless endangerment. Teton County Sheriff's Sgt. Lloyd Funk said the county attorney would decide whether the teen should be tried as a juvenile or an adult. The manslaughter charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

According to witnesses, Heather Donahue, 29, was skiing slowly on an intermediate slope last week when the boy collided with her.

Witnesses said the boy was going very fast and had ample room to turn, but didn't do so. Donahue later died from head injuries.

## Path criticized

**NH** CARROLL — Snowmobiling is big business in New Hampshire's rural North Country, so it's no wonder the state has been trying to lure riders this winter with a new trail.

But the decision to run the path within 100 yards of a new \$9.5 million nature center and lodge in picturesque Crawford Notch is not sitting well with owners and guests.

"If you were going to pick a place that was going to be worse, you could run a trail right through a grade-school playground," Ann Isenberg said after a visit to the center.

February and March are peak months for snowmobiling, a \$1.2 billion industry that is a boon to area restaurants and hotels.

## Spawning giant fish

**MI** BAY CITY — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin a three-year project to see if lake sturgeon, a species native to the area, are spawning in the Saginaw River watershed after a long period of decline.

The gigantic fish has been around since the time of the dinosaurs. The results will be used in efforts to rehabilitate sturgeon populations throughout the Great Lakes.

## Ecstasy dealer guilty

**PA** EASTON — Another person who has admitted to being part of a large Ecstasy drug ring pleaded guilty to drug charges in Northampton County Court.

William D. Hartman, 30, of Say-

lorsburg, admitted that he found customers for Duane Policelli, whom investigators said headed one of the largest Ecstasy operations on the East Coast.

Hartman faces a maximum of 62 years in prison when he is sentenced on April 1, defense attorney Richard Pepper said.

## Saving Civil War site

**SC** CHARLESTON — About 80 Civil War re-enactors camped on Morris Island, where black troops of the 54th Massachusetts mounted an attack against Confederate defenses, a battle recounted in the movie "Glory."

They were trying to draw attention to efforts to preserve the island, parts of which are up for sale. The group camped on the beach and then rowed 19th century replica wooden boats to nearby Fort Sumter.

## Abortion bill fails

**CT** WATERBURY — Officials declined to take action on a proposal to declare the city an abortion-free zone, a measure that would have banned the procedure in Waterbury.

Forty demonstrators in support of the proposal attended a Board of Aldermen meeting, where independent Alderman Frank Caiazzo proposed the measure.

Instead, aldermen voted 9-6 to place the proposal "on file," essentially killing it for now. The bill could be brought up again later.

## Community center plans

**HI** HONOLULU — The Salvation Army announced its plans to begin construction on its \$30 million community center on 10 acres in Kapolei within two years. The center, which will have a day care, swimming pool and theater, is expected to be completed as early as 2009.

The bulk of the funding for the center would come from a \$1.5 billion endowment from Joan B. Kroc, late wife of McDonald's restaurants founder Ray Kroc.

The endowment is earmarked specifically for the construction of as many as 30 community centers across the nation. Half the endowment must be used to build the centers, while the other half must collect interest and help support the centers' operation.

## Maryland may get slots

**MD** ANNAPOLIS — The Maryland House of Delegates voted by the slimmest of margins to invite slot machine gambling into the state, ending two years of opposition to Gov. Robert Ehrlich's signature initiative.

Passage in the House was viewed by slots advocates as a pivotal step forward for the star-crossed gambling initiative. But even as backers cheered the 71 to 66 vote, signs were emerging that their victory could be short-lived.

House Speaker Michael Busch, a slots opponent, said even a slight change to the House's version of the legislation would break the fragile majority that enabled it to pass. "The governor and the president of the Senate are either going to have to accept this bill or there will be no expansion of gambling in Maryland," Busch said.

Stories and photos from wire reports

## FACES

## Usher and Alicia Keys dominate awards

Fresh off their Grammy success, Usher and Alicia Keys dominated the Soul Train Awards in Los Angeles, with each winning two individual awards and sharing the prize for best R&B-soul single by a group or duo.

R&B sensation Usher picked up the award for best male R&B-soul single for "Confessions Part II," as well as the prize for best R&B-soul album by a male artist for "Confessions."

Keys got a nod for the best female R&B-soul single for her hit "If I Ain't Got You" and was honored for best female R&B-soul album for "The Diary of Alicia Keys."

The two singers already shared a Grammy for their chart-topping duet "My Boo." Keys won four Grammys last month, while Usher had three.

Usher also earned an award for best R&B-soul or rap music video for his work with rappers Ludacris & Lil Jon in the song "Yeah!"

Other artists picking up awards were Destiny's Child, for "Destiny Fulfilled," and the sexy newcomer Ciara, who won for best R&B-soul or rap new artist for her album "Goodies."

## Producer: Orbach an actor until the end

In his final days, Jerry Orbach refused to let cancer stop him from portraying police Detective Lennie Briscoe on NBC's "Law & Order: Trial by Jury," the show's executive producer said.

Orbach, who died of prostate cancer in December, continued to work even while getting chemotherapy every two weeks, *Walon Green* told TV Guide.

Green said he needed to make some changes for Orbach's final scene because the actor had weakened to the point where he could not speak in his normal voice.

"He was down to a whisper," Green said. "So we had everybody else in the scene whisper."

Green said the 69-year-old Orbach refused to be written out of scenes when Green tried to lighten his workload.

## Judge restricts accused Berry stalker

A judge in San Monica, Calif., issued a three-year restraining order against a man who allegedly sent threatening letters to Halle Berry's home.

Superior Court Judge Linda K. Lekowitz ruled that Robert Sawyer of San Pablo, about 15 miles north-east of San Francisco, was to stay 100 yards away from Berry and to keep the same distance from her home, work and vehicle.

The order, which expires in 2008, also prohibits him from contacting the actress by phone, mail or e-mail.

Berry wasn't in court Monday when the judge made her decision.

Berry's lawyer, Blair Berk, refused to comment.

Court records filed on Berry's behalf earlier this month claim Sawyer's letters talk about "delusions he has about a purported romantic relationship (with the actress)."

## Portman regrets Jerusalem kiss scene

Natalie Portman says filming a kissing scene beside Jerusalem's Western Wall for her upcoming movie "Free Zone" was a mistake.

"I really don't want to offend anyone's beliefs or impose anything on anyone and it was tantamount to do it," Portman told "Access Hollywood."

The 23-year-old Israeli-born actress and her crew were confronted by ultra-Orthodox Jewish worshippers last week while filming the scene with Israeli actor Aki Avni. The incident undermined the sensitivity of the site, a remnant of the biblical Jewish temples, the holiest place where Jews can pray.

The site is controlled by strictly observant Jews. Male and female worshippers are separated by a barrier perpendicular to the wall, following Orthodox Jewish rules forbidding casual contact between the sexes.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



By ROBERT W. WELKOS  
Los Angeles Times

## HOLLYWOOD

Glenn Close is walking down a tattered sidewalk near Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on a January day heading for her trailer in a Ralphs grocery store parking lot. She is on a break filming her first episode of the FX network's gritty police drama "The Shield," in which she plays precinct captain Monica Rawling.

A few days later, Close would be dressed to the nines at the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, where her portrayal of Eleanor of Aquitaine in Showtime's "The Lion in Winter" won her the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's trophy as best actress in a TV miniseries or movie.

At 57, Close echoes the long-running lament of actresses of a certain age—even ones with Oscars on their mantles and a body of work crammed with significant performances—that good roles "are terrifically hard to come by."

That said, she ponders how to square that with her new TV role and featured roles in three movies that recently premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, America's showcase of independent movies.

"I was lucky," she said, breaking into a smile as she settles into her trailer. "That scope, certainly for a woman my age, is rare."

It's ironic because I feel that I am probably at the top of my game right now."

Her Sundance trifecta: Chris Terrio's "Heights," Rodrigo Garcia's "Nine Lives" and Arie Posin's "The Chumscrubber."

"All of them were really interesting writing and, because of that, they attracted a wonderful group of actors and there you have it," she said.

The range of roles that Close has performed on film, in television and on the stage is considerable.

A history lesson: When she broke into Hollywood, Close was basically known for her strong-willed mother or wife roles in films such as "The World According to Garp," "The Big Chill" and "The Natural," for which she received Oscar nominations as best supporting actress. Then she turned her rather wholesome image on its ear, first as the sexy, psychotic "other woman," Alex Forrest, in "Fatal Attraction" and then as manipulative Parisian socialite Marquise de Merteuil in "Dangerous Liaisons."

Her role in "Fatal Attraction" not only made her a star but had such a memorable impact on moviegoers that years later the American Film Institute voted Forrest the seventh greatest screen villain of all time.

Close said she was afraid that after the film "crazy people would come out of the woodwork and prey on me, but it didn't happen. Still, when I walk into an elevator and men realize who I am, you still get the look. You still get somebody saying under his breath, 'You scared the (expletive) out of me.' These breaks into laughter. 'If they're brave enough to say it.'"

"But if anything, 'Fatal Attraction' opened up everything for me. Before that, I played Jenny Fields, who was this austere, asexual New Englander, and then I'd play the mother in 'The Big Chill,' and then I'd play the mother who is kind of a virgin figure in 'The Natural.' Everyone in Hollywood was wondering if I could be sexual, but I had never been asked to be sexual. ... Hollywood loves to see a woman either end up in the gutter or dead," she said, breaking into a laugh.

Sherry Lansing, the departing Paramount Pictures studio chief who produced "Fatal Attraction" along with Stanley Jaffe, said they hadn't thought of casting Close until she came in to read for the part.

"She wasn't, quite honestly, what any of us had in mind," Lansing recalled. "We were thinking of a completely different image."

"We got a call from her agent who said, 'Glenn would like to come in and read for the part.' Because the actress was coming off one of her Oscar nominations, Lansing wasn't sure how Close would react to auditioning, but the agent made it clear that Close was willing.

Lansing said director Adrian Lyne and actor Michael Douglas read with Close while "Stanley and I were in another room. Maybe five minutes later, Adrian comes out and says, 'I think you should come in here.'"

Aside from her dramatic work, Close has also ventured into comedy from time to time with varying results, like the "flight attendants" comedy "Glenn Close: The Woman Who Played in the Flawed Remake of 'The Stepford Wives'" starring Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick, or as Charlene DeVill in Disney's live-action children's comedy "101 Dalmatians."

Unlike some actresses who achieve fame on the big screen, Close has never been reluctant to do television. For instance, she produced and starred in the 1991 hit "Fallmark Hall of Fame" presentation "Sarah, Plain and Tall" for CBS.

"I've always, since the beginning of my career, really not cared whether it was television or film," Close said. "There has been a great snobbery in our industry between movies and television and I think now, with the advent of the good work that is being done on cable, that's changing. ... Television, in my mind, is the most powerful element in our culture as far as how it impacts us on a daily basis."



Berry



Portman











Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



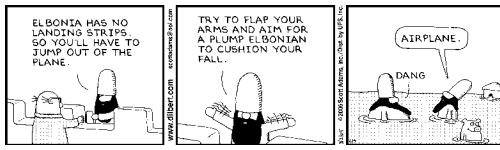
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



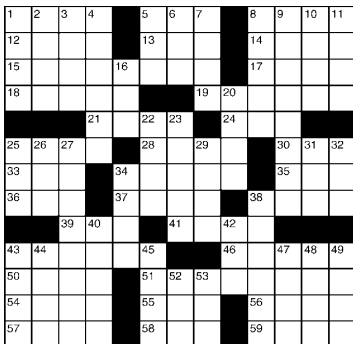
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 1960s dance
- 5 Spot on a domino
- 8 Trade
- 12 Top-notch
- 13 Historic time
- 14 Urbanite's shout
- 15 Sharp-spined fish
- 17 The yoke's on them
- 18 Aquarium favorite
- 19 Office holder?
- 21 Grand-scale tale
- 24 LAX info
- 25 Ties up the phone
- 28 Quick meal
- 30 Burst
- 33 Ostrich's cousin
- 34 Bee spots
- 35 Mess up
- 36 Claiborne of fashion

## Down

- 1 Speedy
- 2 Memorization method
- 3 Singleton
- 4 Literary categories
- 5 Apiece
- 6 Keogh relative
- 7 Picks up the check
- 8 Brown ermine
- 9 Food wrap
- 10 Skating leap
- 11 Christmas tree, often
- 16 Hatian pugilism
- 20 Links gadgets
- 22 Wading bird
- 23 Honda model
- 25 Solidify
- 26 "Blue?"

- 27 Piece of jargon
- 29 Live at Red Rocks' musician
- 31 Tamcar load
- 32 Snop
- 34 Hula hoop support
- 38 Supplanted
- 40 Sponsorship
- 42 Idolater's feeling
- 43 Disconcert
- 44 Painter Schiele
- 45 Spring occurrence
- 47 Practice
- 48 Tower city
- 49 Appear
- 52 Bullying bravo
- 53 Pen point

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

MATH	BAT	AMMO
AHOY	UGH	POOL
JAMBOREE	LORD	
	RUN	PHONES
RELIT	ALUM	
ICED	CLAMBAKE	
FRO	ALLIS	FREE
FUNCTION	MALL	
	ROMY	CARPS
MAZUMA	HAL	
ABET	TEAPARTY	
ALEC	ERR	GEAR
MESH	SAM	ADDS

3-2

## CRYPTOQUIP

NANDY DXRT GXRGPARNRT  
Z MPBBXQ QYX ZBQZID  
DENBPD QZAEBI: "HYP

QPZANRT XM HYP TANR."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PHARAOH  
SNACKS ON LOTS OF CRACKERS IN BED, WILL  
WE END UP WITH A CRUMBY MUMMY?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals G

# Privacy a hospital patient's choice

**Dear Abby:** I am a nursing supervisor in a large hospital. There is a policy in hospitals that the public does not understand, and it has caused more than a few problems.

Because of privacy laws, all patients admitted to the hospital must be asked if they want to be a "privacy patient" or a "no publicity patient." If they answer yes to that question, it means that if anyone calls, or comes to the hospital, we cannot even acknowledge that the patient is here. We must say, "I don't have a patient listed by that name."

Not surprisingly, this often upsets friends and family members. So please, Abby, remind your readers about the privacy laws. We are not purposely lying to anyone; we are just following the patient's instructions and obeying the rules.

—Frustrated Nurse  
in Ironton, Ohio

**Dear Frustrated:** Thank YOU for injecting an important dose of reality. While some patients may welcome visitors, many more do not. One solution is to assign a particular relative or friend to be the "minister of information."

**Dear Abby:**

My husband's grandmother died two years ago, my mother-in-law, "Shirley," told us we could go through the items left in her mother's house, take what we wanted, and then discard the rest. I took mostly kitchen stuff — mainly pots and pans.

My birthday was last week and I had to work late, so Shirley came over and cooked dinner for me. A couple of days later, I was going to cook some lasagna and take it to her home, but after searching high and low, I was unable to locate a particular dish I used. Finally, after going through every cupboard, I called Shirley to ask where she had put it. She then

informed me that since it was her mother's dish, she had taken it.

I was upset and told her I wanted it back. Shirley told me no and hung up on me! My mother-in-law has not spoken to me since, and now she's fighting with my husband because he stood up to defend me.

I don't want a lasagna dish to divide my family, but I refuse to be treated this way. How would you have handled this situation?

—Offended in Odessa, Texas  
**Dear Offended:** Your mother-in-law was wrong to take the dish without asking or letting you know. However, it's possible the item has some sentimental meaning to her.

Bearing that in mind, and in the interest of family harmony, I'd have written Shirley a note telling her that she's welcome to it — and then I'd have gone out and bought myself another lasagna pan.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Service Syndicate

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argilron

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAIDE

LIDAP

NAWKEE

THORAU

A: THEY

Jumbles: BOUND PROXY ANGINA REDUCE

Yesterday's Answer: How long did the challenger last against the champ? — AROUND A ROUND



WHAT THE TIPSY GAMBLER AND THE DICE HAD IN COMMON

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

# Jokes too crude for polite company

**Dear Annie:** Once again, we've endured an unpleasant visit from my boyfriend's daughter, "Mitzi," and her husband, "Boris." Mitzi is OK, but Boris is intolerable. Unfortunately, Mitzi apparently sees nothing wrong with her husband's behavior. She will occasionally tell him to "shush," but that's about it.

Every time we are in Boris' company, he expounds about bathroom procedures and tells jokes about everything anal. One time, my boyfriend had a private conversation with Mitzi about her husband, and she broke into tears and defended him. She said that he expects us to laugh at his stories. I admit, when I first met him three years ago, he would make mild allusions about some vulgarity in a recent movie, and it could be amusing. But now it occurs every time we are in their company, and it's becoming more and more disgusting.

Mitzi was not raised this way,

**Annie's Mailbox**



and we can't understand why she isn't embarrassed. We have asked Boris to refrain from this kind of talk, but he just ignores us. —Disgusted in Florida  
**Dear Disgusted:** You must be more forceful. Whenever Boris starts one of his stories, stop him midstream, and say you aren't interested in listening to such vulgarity and to please talk about something else. If he won't stop, you can ask him to leave, or you can get up and walk out of the room. Boris continues to do this because you put up with it and he doesn't respect you. Mitzi defends him because she is overbearing, but thinks this is the way to be "supportive" of her husband. She is mistaken.

**Dear Annie:** I am "Scared to Death," who wrote about my husband, "Chet," who watched incest porn. After reading the responses you printed, I thought you might appreciate an update.

First, none of Chet's porn ever involved minors. After my letter was printed, I followed your advice and demanded that Chet attend counseling with me. Chet was diagnosed with sexual addiction, and like any addiction, the need escalates, along with the desire for more exciting forms. But addictions can be managed, and the addict can live a normal life through hard work and dedication to being healthy again.

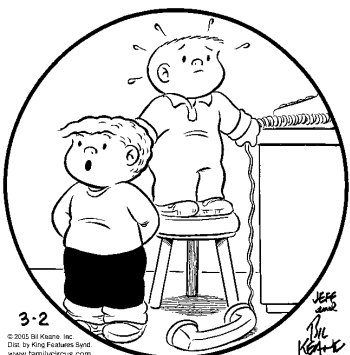
Chet voluntarily turned over his Internet password to me, we no longer have porn in the house, and he is a new man. Getting his addiction under control has made him stronger and happier. I'm glad I stayed.

—Still Chet's Wife  
You stayed, too, because it gives Chet a reason to stay clean and be a better man. We want to believe the two of you will make it.

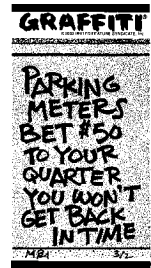
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"PJ was pushing the phone buttons and somebody said 'hello.'"



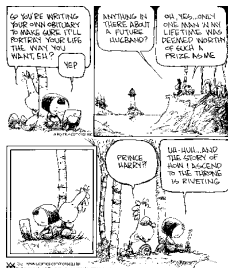
Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur









# Ankiel shaky in second spring session

The Associated Press

Just days after he had battles flailing, it was Rick Ankiel who was struggling.

The St. Louis Cardinals left-hander threw just three strikes in 26 batting practice pitches Monday, a big drop-off from Friday, when he faced hitters for the first time in spring training and stymied hitters in a 40-pitch session.

Ankiel refused to place too much importance on his trouble finding the plate. "I'm a little frustrated, but I have to think

positive," Ankiel said from training camp in Jupiter, Fla.

Trying to earn a spot on the staff, he had looked steady in earlier outings. But he couldn't match that Monday.

"He was a little out of whack, but he wasn't missing by much," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "That happens to a lot of pitchers. It isn't anything that we are worried about."

Ankiel arrived in 2000 at age 19 with a mid-90s fastball and a nasty curve that then-teammate Mark McGwire nicknamed the "snapper."

He earned 11 victories and recorded more than a strikeout per inning before badness and an elbow injury derailed his career for nearly three seasons.

During the 2000 playoffs, he threw nine wild pitches and walked four batters in four innings. Then came two elbow injuries, the second requiring reconstructive surgery that forced him out for a year.

Ankiel appeared in five late-season games last year and earned his first victory since the 2001 season. La Russa briefly considered him for the postseason roster, but the Cardinals reached the World Series without him.

Their run ended when they were swept in four straight by the



Cardinals pitcher Rick Ankiel struggled from the mound on Monday after a solid outing last Friday.

Boston Red Sox.

Also, closer Jason Iringhausen, who had hip joint surgery in the offseason, threw batting practice for 15 minutes. Outfielder Larry Walker, who has been nursing a sore back, took part in drills and batting practice.

At Tampa, Fla., Gary Sheffield said he isn't interested in extending his contract with the New York Yankees.

The slugging right fielder is in the second season of a \$39 million, three-year contract. The Yankees have a \$13 million option for the 2007 season, and Sheffield wants to wait for this contract to run out before considering a new one.

"I don't want one," Sheffield said Monday. "When this is over, that's it. When this date is done, I don't look past it. I can't predict if somebody is going to want me. New York closer Mariano Rivera is also working his way back. He threw 43 pitches in his first batting practice session Monday, and could pitch in a spring training game next week."

At Fort Myers, Fla., Red Sox right-hander Wade Miller, who hasn't thrown off a mound since last August because of a rotator cuff injury, long-tossed from 210 feet.

He expects to throw an abbreviated bullpen session Tuesday.

"They want to take it slow, they

don't want to rush me," Miller said. "So in the back of their minds, the safest thing is probably starting the season on the DL and getting some work in down here."

Meanwhile, third baseman Bill Mueller is well ahead of schedule as he recovers from arthroscopic surgery on his right knee. He expected to play in exhibition games around March 10.

At Dunedin, Fla., Toronto manager John Gibbons said the Blue Jays will carry 12 pitchers this season, and only one spot is still open in the bullpen.

Billy Koch, Scott Schoeneweis, Jason Frasor, Kerry Ligtenberg, Brandon League and closer Jus-

tin Speier have already locked up relief positions.

The Blue Jays also learned that left-hander Ted Lilly (tendinitis in his left shoulder) could start throwing as early as Sunday.

At Peoria, Ariz., injury-prone Mariners outfielder Chris Snelling will undergo surgery Wednesday to repair a torn cartilage in his left knee. He's expected to be out of action for six weeks.

Snelling tore a ligament in the same knee during the 2001 season and missed the entire 2004 season because of operations on his right hand and wrist.

At Tempe, Ariz., newly appointed Angels closer Frankie Rodriguez finally arrived at spring training after resolving visa problems in his native Venezuela.

Rodriguez, 23, inherited the role from longtime closer Troy Percival, who signed with the Detroit Tigers.

At Surprise, Ariz., Pedro Astacio and Ricardo Rodriguez, pitchers the Texas Rangers hope will be in their starting rotation, threw scoreless innings in the first intrasquad game of the spring.

Rodriguez's season ended in July last year when his right elbow was broken by a line drive.

Astacio, a 35-year-old right-hander with one start since shoulder surgery in 2003, signed as a free agent. He threw 13 pitches, allowing only one out-of-double to leadoff Roman Nivar.

He got his outs on a grounder and two flyballs.

At Clearwater, Fla., Phillies right-hander Vicente Padilla and third baseman Ryan Howard were in camp because of injuries that sidelined them in recent seasons.

Padilla had an MRI taken on his pitching elbow and was diagnosed with a torn tendon.

Bell, who hasn't participated in a full day of workouts because of back spasms, flew to Dallas on Monday to have his back checked out. He'll continue on to Los Angeles on Tuesday for another exam.

## League expects to start new drug testing on Thursday

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Testing under baseball's new drug agreement will start Thursday, according to the league's press office.

Lawyers for players and owners have been drafting the deal since they announced the agreement for tougher testing on Jan. 13.

"We're going to be in the camps testing starting the third of March, and I expect the language to be wrapped up in the next couple of days," Rob Manfred, management executive vice president for labor relations, said Monday.

Michael Weiner, the union's general counsel, said the sides hoped to complete the drafting before the testing starts.

Under the new rules, a players would be suspended for 10 days for a first positive test for a performance-enhancing drug, 30 days for a second positive test, 60 days for a third and one year for a fourth. Under the previous deal, a player who tested positive for the first time received counseling, and his name was not publicly revealed.

**Hudson, Braves complete extension**  
KISSIMMEE, Fla. — The Atlanta Braves completed a contract extension

### MLB briefs

"It feels good to get it done," Hudson said, sitting at his locker before a spring training workout.

Hudson was expected to get at least three more guaranteed years, at an average salary of about \$11 million. The 29-year-old right-hander will make \$6.75 million this year.

Atlanta has secured the top two spots in its rotation for at least two more seasons. John Smoltz, another former 20-game winner, worked out a new \$20 million deal that will keep him in Atlanta through at least 2006.

Hudson, who has a career record of 92-39, was acquired from Oakland during the offseason. The budget-conscious A's didn't feel they could afford the pitcher and didn't want to lose him as a free agent.

Last season, Hudson went 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA in 27 starts, but spent a month on the disabled list with an injury to his left side.

Even before he was traded by the A's, Hudson set a March 1 deadline for discuss-

ing a contract extension because he didn't want to talk money during the season.

### Padres, Peavy agree to four-year deal

POEIRA, Ariz. — Right-hander Jake Peavy has agreed to a terms of a four-year contract with the San Diego Padres.

San Diego, which holds an option for a fifth year, plans to announce the deal after obtaining an insurance policy on Peavy.

"I'm just glad it's over, and we don't have to worry about it anymore," said Peavy, who led the majors with a 2.27 ERA last season. "You got one thing on your brain, and that's getting people out and winning ballgames. That's what I'm excited about."

The 23-year-old Peavy, who went 15-6 last year, could have accepted a one-year deal worth about \$500,000 and taken his chances next winter in his first year of salary arbitration. But he opted for a long-term deal with the team that drafted him in the 15th round out of high school in 1999.

Peavy's agent, Barry Axelrod, said negotiations were close to falling apart until Peavy stepped in and agreed to extend the length of the contract from three to four years, with the option wiping out his first year of free agency. As a concession, the Padres agreed to include performance bo-

nuses and escalators that could increase the value of the deal.

### Anaheim appeals injunction denial in Angels name change

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The city of Anaheim on Monday appealed a judge's ruling that would allow the Angels to continue using the team's new name, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Superior Court Judge Peter Polos refused last month to grant the city a preliminary injunction to block the team from using Los Angeles in its name. He also denied a request for a temporary restraining order after the city sued the Angels, claiming the name switch would violate the team's lease of the stadium. The judge, however, said that the contract requires only that Anaheim be included in the name.

Court papers filed by attorneys representing the city said the name change has already done enough damage to the city's image.

The team has maintained that the new name would attract more fans, advertisers and broader support by emphasizing its connection to the nation's second-largest media market.

# Without Big Three, A's focusing on big bats

## Major changes to rotation likely to shift focus back to offensive output in Oakland

By GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — When Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi and Miguel Tejada were swinging big bats in Oakland, the Athletics were known for their power.

As the sluggers left, the Coliseum became a pitchers' paradise, with the Big Three winning games and dominating headlines.

But now that Mark Mulder and Tim Lincecum are gone, offense might be in vogue again with the A's. Eric Chavez hopes he's leading the next generation of hitters that will put the bash back in Oakland.

"I don't know what kind of team we're going to be, but I know we've got a lot of guys in this lineup that are ready to step up," Chavez said. "This could be the first chapter in the next step for this team. I don't know how long it will take, but I think this will be a lineup that people are going to notice."

With Hudson, Mulder and Barry Zito in the rotation, as well as a succession of solid No. 4 starters, quality pitching was never more than a day away for the A's in recent years. Oakland relied on its big arms while its run production declined for three consecutive seasons from 2001-03, even though the A's made the playoffs each year.



Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez had 29 homers and 77 RBIs last season despite missing a month.

But general manager Billy Beane was forced to trade Hudson and Mulder in a pre-emptive strike against the annual growth of his small-market club's payroll. Instead of signing the two pitchers to big contract extensions, Beane was able to keep together the rest of his club's core while adding catcher Jason Kendall and providing openings for youngsters ready to move up.

"Billy has the answer. He said he traded those two guys for really good prospects who are going to get the job done," designated hitter Erubiel Durazo said. "I think we're going to be good. A lot of guys who want to play in the big leagues are going to get a chance. It's going to be different."

"Oakland used to depend on three guys. Now it's depending on a lot of guys. There are a lot of

new faces."

Though Oakland struggled to score consistently last season, there are several reasons to believe the A's might be a budding offensive force.

Chavez, who signed a six-year contract last spring, had 29 homers and 77 RBIs last season despite missing a month with a broken hand. He is mature and experienced, seemingly ready to be

the heart of Oakland's lineup for years.

Several returning A's enjoyed the best offensive seasons of their careers in 2004, including Durazo (.321, 22 homers, 88 RBIs), Mark Kotsay (.314, 15 homers, 63 RBIs), Scott Letcher (.285, 15 homers, 82 RBIs), Eric Byrnes (.283, 20 homers, 73 RBIs) and, of course, AL rookie of the year Bobby Crosby (.239, 22 homers, 64 RBIs).

Manager Ken Macha is cautiously confident those strides will continue this season with the addition of Kendall, the versatile former Pittsburgh catcher. Though the A's don't have many natural power hitters, their starting lineup is largely set with only a three-way battle at second base and a possible shuffle in the outfield looming.

And perhaps the Slingin' A's of recent seasons will someday resemble the Swingin' A's of past eras in Oakland.

"Obviously, the team at this point doesn't have an identity like it has in the past," said Kotsay, who excelled as a leadoff hitter in his first season in Oakland. "It could be a good thing. There are a lot of guys in this clubhouse who are just good baseball players. We'll see which direction this club goes. If we can be an offensive club, great."

# Report: More sexual assault allegations at CU

The Associated Press

DENVER — Two female athletic trainers told a grand jury investigating the University of Colorado football recruiting scandal that they were sexually assaulted by an assistant coach, according to a report obtained by The Denver Post and KUSA-TV.

The panel's investigation also uncovered a "slush fund" financed by coach Gary Barnett's Football Technique School.

One of the women also said she was "coerced to perform sexual favors for players and recruits repeatedly over a two-year period," according to the report obtained Monday. The woman said she was pressured to have sex with a recruit in a hotel room full of players. It wasn't immediately clear why the panel failed to issue more indictments.

Money was kept in "16 or 17" bank boxes, with funds managed by a different person with little oversight, the Post reported.

CU director of football operations David Hansburg told the grand jury that up to \$2,500 could be missing, but not missed," the report says. "All funds were available to employees of the football program" and "all funds were available to coach Barnett to use in his discretion."

Barnett told the grand jury that "the school received only income from registration fees of (football camp) participants," the report says.

The grand jury, which finished

## Sports briefs

meeting Aug. 19, handed up just one indictment, accusing former football recruiting aide Nathan Maxxey of soliciting for a prostitute for himself. Former call girl Pasha Cowan has said Maxxey paid her \$2,500 for three call girls to visit "very young, very athletic men" at Boulder-area hotels, though Maxxey has said any solicitation was for him.

The report confirmed for an independent commission's finding last year that players used sex, alcohol and marijuana as recruiting tools without the football staff encouraging or sanctioning it. But the report said, officials' denial of knowledge about the practices "demonstrates either conscious disregard of these circumstances or a lack of oversight of recruiting practices."

In a statement provided by the CU athletic department, Barnett said: "I am sure there are things I'd like to refute, but since this has to do directly with the grand jury investigation, I am bound by law that I would not discuss my testimony or anything that was discussed by or included in the grand jury report."

Hansburg also declined comment, citing state grand jury secrecy rules. The report said Barnett and Hansburg gave conflicting explanations of the team's finances.

## Report: Lemieux likely to skip hockey world championships

PITTSBURGH — Mario Lemieux will likely skip the upcoming hockey world championships in Austria, but the player-owner of the Pittsburgh Penguins hasn't ruled it out completely.

Lemieux told The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that it would be difficult for him to get ready for the tournament that runs from April 30-May 15 since he hasn't played this season due to the NHL lockout.

"I'm not sure it would be in my best interest — or in Team Canada's best interest — to have players here who haven't played the whole year," Lemieux told the newspaper. "That's the way I feel now. Maybe I'll change my mind, but it would be very difficult to play at that level, not having played the whole year."

Over 300 players joined leagues in Europe to wait out the lockout that forced the NHL to cancel its entire season.

Tom McMillan, the Penguins' vice president of communications, told The Associated Press that Lemieux was not available for an interview Monday.

## Celebrities attend service for Max Schmeling

HAMBURG, Germany — Several hundred people joined sports stars in a church Tuesday to pay tribute to Max Schmeling, the German boxing great who died one month ago.

Schmeling was buried in a small, private ceremony immediately after his death at 99 in his hometown of Hollenstedt, near Hamburg.

Soccer greats Franz Beckenbauer and Uwe Seeler, one of Schmeling's friends, boxer Vladimir Khlitschko and former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich were among those who attended the memorial service in St. Michael Church in Hamburg for Germany's only world heavyweight champion.

Schmeling stunned the boxing world when he knocked out Joe Louis on June 19, 1936. But in a rematch at Yankee Stadium on June 22, 1938, Louis knocked out Schmeling in the first round.

## Kuznetsov upset by wild card in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov lost in the second round of the Dubai Open on Tuesday, a 6-4, 6-2 defeat to Indian wild card Sania Mirza.

Mirza, who last month became the first Indian woman to win a WTA Tour title, is ranked No. 97. Kuznetsov, a Russian ranked No. 7, was last year's Dubai runner-up and had a first-round bye.

Also seeded was sixth-seeded Alicia Molik of Australia, who was stopped by Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 7-6 (8), 6-2 in the first round. Molik was the Qatar Open runner-up last week.

# Europe may appoint next two captains for Ryder Cup

The Associated Press

LONDON — Ian Woosnam and Nick Faldo might be picked this week as Europe's Ryder Cup captains: the Welshman for 2006 and the Englishman for 2008.

The European Tour's tournament committee could make the unprecedented double appointment on Wednesday in Dubai on the eve of the Desert Classic.

"I'd be happy to do it in 2008," Faldo said at last week's Match Play Championship in California. "If that's the way they want it, then OK. If they are going to name two of us, then that's OK, too."

Selecting both would be a compromise to avoid snubbing Faldo.

The 47-year-old Englishman is the most successful British golfer of his generation, with victories in six majors and 11 appearances in the Ryder Cup.

Woosnam, who turns 47 on Wednesday, is the 1991 Masters champion and an eight-time Ryder Cup player. He was an assistant to Sam Torrance on the 2002 European team and is widely favored to lead the team for 2006.





# Not all schools give NCAA report high marks

## New formula creates accountability for academic progress of college athletes

By MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA has barely released its first report on teams' academic progress rates when the complaints began.

"We'd be remiss if we didn't express at least some concern that there are many number of flaws in this methodology," Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione said.

The NCAA wants to hold schools more accountable for academic progress of student-athletes with a formula that tracks eligibility and retention. According to the report released Monday, half of the 328 Division I schools have at least one team that could face sanctions.

Programs can lose scholarships for up to one year; no team can lose more than 10 percent of what it offers.

"This represents the implementation of the most far-reaching academic reform in decades," NCAA President Myles Brand said. "It holds schools accountable for the performance of their student-athletes."

The new calculation generates a score between 0 and 1,000, penalties are assessed beginning with teams that drop below 925.

The number is determined by a points formula that rewards long-term eligibility and retention of student-athletes. Programs can lose points when athletes transfer, drop out, leave for the pros or become academically ineligible while still at the school. Below the formula, athletes receive one point each semester for staying academically eligible and another point for staying in

school. For instance, a perfect score for a 13-member basketball team at a semester school would be 52.

The total number of points a team actually receives is divided by the maximum possible total to get a percentage, which is converted to the 1000-point scale. No team can lose more than 10 percent of what it offers.

Some teams below the cutoffline will not be penalized because of statistical adjustment that will help eliminate anomalies for teams with fewer athletes. Others can apply for a waiver.

**"We'd be remiss if we didn't express at least some concern that there are any number of flaws in this methodology."**

Joe Castiglione

Oklahoma athletic director

At Oklahoma, the baseball, wrestling and men's and women's indoor track teams scored lower than the 925 point mark.

"They're going to get a lot of waivers," said Gerald Gurney, Oklahoma's associate athletic director for academic affairs. "Any system that creates such a bureaucracy that you have huge numbers of waivers and very few people understand, you have a problem."

At Maryland-Baltimore County, the men's indoor track team scored an extremely low 600 — a figure athletic director Charles Brown had already told NCAA officials was wrong.

"To be considered well below the cutoffline is very embarrassing and it hurts our recruiting," Brown said. "It's extremely upsetting that the NCAA released something when they know there are some flaws. This is an honors institution."

The three sports that could be most affected are football, baseball and men's basketball. The NCAA estimates that 25 percent of football programs, 23 percent of basketball teams and 19 percent of men's basketball programs could face scholarship losses.

Football, baseball and men's basketball were the only sports with averages below the 925-point cutoffline. Baseball teams averaged 922, while football and men's basketball were at 923.

The most prominent programs that appeared in trouble were the men's basketball teams at Fresno State and Baylor. Fresno State received a 611, while Baylor scored 647 — a figure affected by the transfer of several players after the 2003 shooting death of Patrick Denney. Only one of those players remains on the team.

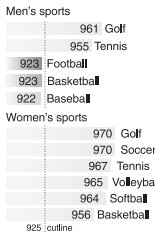
"If it were necessary to consider a waiver, we would do so," Baylor athletic director Ian McCaw said. "Hopefully at this point, our program is in good academic condition, and it won't become an issue."

McCaw also said he wouldn't contest the numbers that were mailed to schools last week.

## NCAA issues report card to sports teams

According to the NCAA's new measurement of student-athletes known as the Academic Progress Rate (APR), 7.2 percent of the 5,720 Division I men's and women's sports teams could fall below the 925-point cutoffline — equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate.

### Average APR for sports with more than 200 teams not requiring changes



Source: NCAA

Some numbers appeared inaccurate to university leaders, and there appeared to be more problems with the track calculations.

Houston's women's cross country team and the men's indoor track teams at Eastern Michigan and Seton Hall all scored zero.

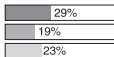
NCAA officials acknowledged during the conference call that errors might have occurred or there might be just one athlete on those teams.

Schools can submit amended forms in March, with results expected to be released in April.

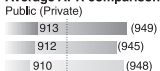
Monday's report only indicates how schools are doing, based on data collected from the 2003-04 academic year. No penalties will



### Percentage of teams with an APR below 925



### Average APR comparison



Source: NCAA

AP

be enforced until data from the 2004-05 school year is included.

Schools are expected to be notified in December of the final results, and programs must take the penalties as early as possible.

Some schools could opt to take their punishment in the fall if they expect penalties.

Stronger sanctions, such as postseason bans for consistently poor long-term academic performance, are expected to be enforced by the fall of 2008.

"In the case of the 7.2 percent of schools affected, they have not achieved the level of achievement they need to," Brand said. "They should take this as a serious warning."

Associated Press writer Jeff Latzke in Oklahoma contributed to this report.

## New rules could put student back in 'student-athlete'

Myles Brand already held credentials as a reformer when he was named to head the NCAA a little over two years ago. This was a guy, after all, who had the guts as president of Indiana University to give the boot to Bob Knight.

That move didn't exactly endear Brand to the home folks, some of whom joined angry students to hang Brand in effigy outside his home. Police eventually had to come to take Brand and his wife away to a safer location until calmer heads prevailed.

Brand's latest assault on the spoiled culture of college sports isn't likely to move people to protest in the streets. But you can be sure it has coaches across the country muttering under their breath.

On Monday, Brand and the NCAA nudged America's colleges and universities a step closer to putting the student back in student-athlete by introducing a plan that will hit coaches where it hurts most if they can't get their

Tim Dahlberg



athletes to graduate. At first glance, it's a maze of formulas, numbers, arcane phrases and acronyms that look as if they were drawn up in some mad professor's lab.

Only people who live in the world of academia can put out with a straight face a plan that is spiced liberally with APRs, GSRs, and phrases like "contemporaneous penalties."

Look deeper, though, and for the first time there are serious performance standards being put into place that will hit coaches where it hurts most: their pay to live it up to them.

Put simply, if it's this: Fail to graduate an average of 50 percent of your players and you'll lose scholarships. Keep it up, and you could find your team banned from post-

season play, something the NCAA does now only if the coach is caught on videotape shoving hundred-dollar bills into a recruit's pocket.

At the core of the NCAA's new formula is the number 925, a figure that interested coaches better only if it happened to be the SAT of a prized recruit. Now it's a number coaches must meet, or risk losing up to 10 percent of their scholarships beginning next year.

Just how the number is arrived at is no big secret. A semester or two of calculus and anyone ought to be able to figure it out.

Actually, it's a relatively simple formula that subtracts points if a player is academically ineligible or leaves school the previous semester. If a school scores 925, half of its athletes are expected to graduate, while a 1,000 mark is a perfect score.

The first figures released Monday show some schools have some work to do to avoid penalties. Of the 5,720 teams at Divi-

sion I schools, 410 fall below the magical 925 mark, and half the 328 schools have at least one team in peril.

The rowing, lacrosse and gymnastics teams don't have much to worry about, but there's trouble brewing in more visible sports.

The NCAA estimates that 25 percent of football programs, 23 percent of basketball teams and 19 percent of men's basketball programs could lose scholarships.

Among the teams currently ranked in the Associated Press top 25 basketball poll, four (Kentucky, Louisville, Washington and Connecticut) will lose scholarships if they don't improve off the court, while six others (Kansas, Oklahoma State, Utah, Charlotte, Pittsburgh and Nevada) are on the borderline.

Not surprisingly, it didn't take schools long to howl about their fiscal report cards.

There wasn't a lot to say, though, at Fresno State, where men's basketball scored 611, or at UNLV, where men's basketball,

football and baseball all scored in the 800s.

The NCAA acknowledges there may have been a few mistakes made in preparing the grades, and will listen to appeals. But for now, the penalties are real and they are coming soon — as early as this fall for schools wanting to take their lumps early.

"For the first time, the NCAA is holding teams and institutions accountable," Brand said.

Brand can't be given all the credit for the new reforms; there have been efforts since Prop 16 eligibility guidelines came out in the 1990s to actually have athletes in school who will study. But the balance of power in the NCAA has clearly shifted to the academic side, and that influence is likely to grow with a former university president at the reins.

The formula may seem complex, but the message to coaches is clear: Keep your players in class, or you likely won't be keeping your job much longer.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for the Associated Press. Write to him at: tddahlberg@ap.org

# Chaney won't coach Temple in A-10 tournament

## Hall of Famer extends self-imposed ban stemming from injury to St. Joe's player

BY DAN GELSTON  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — John Chaney extended his suspension by banning himself from the Temple sidelines for the Atlantic 10 tournament.

The Hall of Famer continued a week of apologies and punishments Monday when he announced he won't return after the school's three-game suspension ends with the close of the regular season.

"I believe the fair thing is for me not to coach during the Atlantic 10 championship tournament in Cincinnati," the 73-year-old Chaney said in a statement.

Chaney first suspended himself for one game and then had the school extend it to three games over his ordering rough play from one of his players in a recent game that resulted in an injury to senior John Bryant of Saint Joseph's.

If the Owls reach the A-10 championship game, there's a chance they could play the Hawks again.

"Now, when we go to our championship, it will be one less distraction," Atlantic 10 Commissioner Linda Bruno said Monday. Maybe, but Chaney vs. the Hawks seems far from over, Saint



Chaney

Joseph's officials have refused to comment, only offering a tersely worded statement Saturday that said "a line was crossed."

Phil Martelli, the quick-witted Hawks coach, has refused to comment and declined to participate in Monday's A-10 coaches' teleconference — the same one on which Chaney last week threatened to take action if the Hawks continued setting what he thought were illegal screens.

Chaney followed through on his threat, using Nehemiah Ingram to "send a message." Ingram fouled out in four minutes, including the hit on Bryant that left the senior sprawled on the court for several minutes. An MRI later revealed he had a broken arm that ended his season and college career.

Chaney had apologized to Bryant and his family and offered to pay his medical bills. Chaney on Monday apologized again in a statement to Bryant, both schools and the conference.

"Last week, my words and actions were wrong, wrong, wrong," he said.

"I never intended — nor did any of my players intend — for anyone to be injured, regardless of what may have been said emotionally before, during and after the game," Chaney said. "But the unfortunate fact is that John Bryant was injured. I have taken full responsibility for my words and actions, and have apologized from my heart."

Bruno said there were no plans to take action against Ingram, who apologized after Saturday's game.

Chaney is still coaching the Owls at practice, though he won't attend any games. Assistant Dan Leibovitz is coaching the team, who apologized after Saturday's game.

The Owls (14-11, 10-6) clinched a tie for second place in the Atlantic 10 East Division. A Temple win or a Portland loss will earn the Owls a first-round bye in the conference tournament.

A Temple spokesman did not know if Chaney would be allowed to coach in the postseason. The Owls could earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament by winning the A-10 tie. Even if the Owls lost their last three games, they would finish with a .500 record and be eligible for the NIT.

Bruno said it would be up to



AP

Temple assistant Dan Leibovitz, above, who is coaching the Owls during John Chaney's absence, guided the team to a 61-48 win over Massachusetts on Saturday. Chaney is still coaching the Owls in practice.

Chaney or Temple to decide if the coach should continue in the postseason.

Chaney avoids another distraction in returning to Cincinnati for the conference tournament. Last

month, Chaney scolded the people of Ohio, the state that helped President Bush win re-election with 20 electoral votes, saying, "It's not the people I hate, it's what they did that I hate."

## Conference tournament scoreboard

### America East Conference

At Binghamton University Events Center  
Yeshiva, N.Y.  
First Round  
Friday, March 3  
New Hampshire vs. Maryland-Baltimore County  
Stony Brook vs. Hartford

Quarterfinals  
Saturday, March 4  
Albany, N.Y. vs. Binghamton  
Vermont vs. New Hampshire-Maryland-Baltimore County winner  
Northeastern vs. Stony Brook-Hartford winner

Semifinals  
Sunday, March 5  
Albany-Binghamton winner vs. Vermont-New Hampshire-Maryland-Baltimore County winner  
Northeastern vs. Stony Brook-Hartford winner  
Boston University-Maine winner

Championship  
Saturday, March 12  
Semifinal winners

### Atlantic Sun Conference

At The Club Event Center  
Nashville, Tenn.  
First Round  
Thursday, March 3  
Gardner-Webb vs. Troy  
Belmont vs. Mercer  
Belmont vs. Georgia State  
Jacksonville vs. Lipscomb

Semifinals  
Friday, March 4  
Gardner-Webb-Troy winner vs. Central Florida-Mercer winner  
Belmont-Georgia State winner vs. Jacksonville-Lipscomb winner  
Championship  
Saturday, March 5  
Semifinal winners

### Big Sky Conference

First Round  
Saturday, March 5  
Eastern Washington vs. Montana  
Weber State at Sacramento State  
At Memorial Coliseum  
Portland, Ore.

Semifinals  
Tuesday, March 8  
Montana State vs. higher-seeded first-round winner  
Portland State vs. lower-seeded first-round winner  
Championship  
Wednesday, March 9  
Semifinal winners

### Big South Conference

First Round  
Tuesday, March 1  
Charleston Southern at Liberty  
High Point at North Carolina-Asheville  
Coastal Carolina at Winthrop  
Radford at Birmingham-Southern

Quarterfinals  
Thursday, March 3  
Charleston Southern-Liberty winner vs. High Point-North Carolina-Asheville winner  
Coastal Carolina-Winthrop winner vs. Radford-Birmingham-Southern winner  
Championship  
Saturday, March 5  
Semifinal winners

### Colonial Athletic Association

At Richmond Coliseum  
Richmond, Va.  
First Round  
Friday, March 4  
James Madison vs. William & Mary  
Delaware vs. Towson

Quarterfinals  
Saturday, March 5  
Old Dominion vs. James Madison-William & Mary winner  
Drexel vs. Hofstra  
Virginia Commonwealth vs. Delaware-Towson winner  
North Carolina-Wilmington vs. George Mason

Semifinals  
Monday, March 6  
Old Dominion-James Madison-William & Mary winner vs. Drexel-Hofstra winner  
VCU-Delaware-Towson winner vs. North Carolina-Wilmington-George Mason winner  
Championship  
Tuesday, March 7  
Semifinal winners

### Horizon League

First Round  
Tuesday, March 1  
Butler at Wright State  
Youngstown State at Loyola of Chicago  
Cleveland State at Illinois-Chicago  
At U.S. Cellular Arena  
Champaign, Ill.

Second Round  
Friday, March 4  
Detroit vs. Butler-Wright State winner  
Loyola of Chicago-Youngstown State winner vs. Cleveland State-Illinois-Chicago winner  
Semifinals  
Saturday, March 5  
Wisconsin-Green Bay vs. Detroit-Butler-Wright State winner  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee vs. Loyola of Chicago-Cleveland State winner

Championship  
Saturday, March 8  
Semifinal winners

### Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

At HSEC Arena  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
First Round  
Friday, March 4  
Iona vs. Siena  
Canisius vs. Marist  
Marquette vs. Loyola, Md.

Quarterfinals  
Saturday, March 5  
St. Peter's vs. Iona-Siena winner  
Rider vs. Canisius-Marist winner  
Fairfield vs. Manhattan-Loyola, Md. winner

Semifinals  
Sunday, March 6  
Niagara vs. St. Peter's-Iona-Siena winner  
Rider-Canisius-Marist winner vs. Fairfield-Manhattan-Loyola, Md. winner  
Championship  
Monday, March 7  
Semifinal winners

Mid-Continent Conference  
At John D. Hammers Arena  
Tulsa, Okla.  
First Round  
Saturday, March 5  
Old Roberts vs. Oklahoma State  
Missouri-Kansas City vs. Oakland, Mich.

Quarterfinals  
Sunday, March 6  
Indiana-Purdue Indianapolis vs. Western Illinois  
Valparaiso vs. Chicago State  
Semifinals  
Monday, March 7  
Old Roberts-Southern Utah winner vs. IU-Purdue Indianapolis-Western Illinois winner  
UMKC-Oakland winner vs. Valparaiso-Chicago State winner

Championship  
Tuesday, March 7  
Semifinal winners

### Missouri Valley Conference

At Savvis Center  
St. Louis, Mo.  
First Round  
Friday, March 4  
Bradley vs. Indiana State  
Drake vs. Evansville

Quarterfinals  
Saturday, March 5  
Southern Illinois vs. Bradley-Indiana State winner  
Northern Iowa vs. Southwest Missouri State  
Wichita State vs. Drake-Evansville winner  
Creighton vs. Illinois State

Semifinals  
Sunday, March 6  
Southern Illinois-Bradley-Indiana State winner vs. Northern Iowa-Southwest Missouri State winner  
Wichita State-Drake-Evansville winner vs. Creighton-Illinois State winner  
Championship  
Monday, March 7  
Semifinal winners

### Northeast Conference

First Round  
Thursday, March 3  
Central Connecticut State at Monmouth  
N.J. State at Fairleigh Dickinson  
Wagner at Robert Morris  
St. Francis, Pa. at Long Island University

Quarterfinals  
Friday, March 4  
Lowest remaining seed vs. highest remaining seed  
Second lowest remaining seed vs. second highest remaining seed  
Championship  
Wednesday, March 9  
Semifinal winners

### Ohio Valley Conference

First Round  
Thursday, March 3  
Eastern Illinois at Tennessee Tech  
Austin Peay at Samford  
Tennessee State at Eastern Kentucky  
Southern Illinois State at Murray State  
At The Gaylord Entertainment Center  
Nashville, Tenn.

Quarterfinals  
Friday, March 4  
Eastern Illinois-Tennessee Tech winner vs. Austin Peay-Samford winner  
Tennessee State-Eastern Kentucky winner vs. Southeast Missouri State-Murray State winner  
Championship  
Saturday, March 5  
Semifinal winners

### Patriot League

At the Pavilion  
Lewistown, Pa.  
Lafayette at Bucknell  
American vs. Navy  
Semifinals  
Sunday, March 6  
At The Giant Center  
Worcester, Mass.  
Championship  
Monday, March 7  
Semifinal winners

At The Sojka Pavilion  
Lewistown, Pa.  
Bucknell-Lafayette winner vs. American-Navy winner  
Championship  
Monday, March 7  
Semifinal winners

### Southern Conference

At McKinnon Arena  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
First Round  
Wednesday, March 3  
Elon vs. Saint Mary's  
Georgia Southern vs. Western Carolina

Quarterfinals  
Thursday, March 4  
Appalachian State vs. The Citadel

### Quarterfinals

Thursday, March 3  
Davidson vs. Elon-Wright State  
Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Middle Tennessee  
Southern Western Carolina winner vs. Chattanooga-Tennessee State winner  
College of Charleston vs. Appalachian State-The Citadel winner

Semifinals  
Friday, March 4  
Davidson-Elon-Wright State winner vs. Davidson-Elon-Wright State winner  
Chattanooga-Tennessee State winner vs. College of Charleston-Appalachian State-The Citadel winner

### Sun Belt Conference

At Denton, Texas  
First Round  
Friday, March 4  
At Killeen  
South Alabama vs. Florida International  
Arkansas State vs. North Texas  
Chattahoochee State vs. New Mexico State

Quarterfinals  
Saturday, March 5  
Arkansas-Little Rock vs. South Alabama-Florida International winner  
Denver vs. Arkansas State-North Texas winner

Semifinals  
Sunday, March 6  
Western Kentucky vs. New Orleans  
Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Middle Tennessee State-New Mexico State winner

Championship  
Monday, March 7  
Denver-Arkansas-Little Rock winner vs. UALR-South Alabama-Florida International winner  
Saint Mary's vs. Middle Tennessee State-Mexico State winner

### West Coast Conference

At The Savoy Center  
Santa Clara, Calif.  
First Round  
Friday, March 4  
Pepperdine vs. Portland  
Saint Mary's vs. Santa Clara-San Francisco-Palo Alto

Semifinals  
Saturday, March 5  
Gonzaga vs. Pepperdine-Portland winner vs. Saint Mary's-Santa Clara-San Francisco-Palo Alto winner  
Championship  
Monday, March 7  
Semifinal winners

# Sooners put Longhorns on the hot seat



Texas' Jason Kutz is impeded by Oklahoma's Kevin Bookout, left, and Johnnie Gilbert during the Sooners' 74-58 victory in Austin on Monday. Texas (19-9) is 8-7 in the Big 12 and 1-4 against ranked teams.

## NCAA bid no longer a sure thing for Texas

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — With a rugged win over a tough rival, No. 20 Oklahoma earned an extra day of rest in the post-season.

For the Texas Longhorns, the Sooners' 74-58 victory Monday night means more worrying about where their post-season will take them.

Lawrence McKenzie scored 16 points as the Sooners muscled past the Longhorns for their fifth straight win in a game that featured the physical play typical of one of the Big 12's most intense rivalries.

"This is our best road win for sure," Oklahoma coach Kevin Sampson said. "McKenzie's saved us a lot of nights."

Oklahoma (22-6, 11-4) clinched a bye in the first round of the Big 12 tournament and stayed within a game of conference leader Kansas. David Godbold added 14 points for the Sooners.

"I feel good about this team right now," Oklahoma center Johnnie Gilbert said. "We're just playing on a high right now."

Texas (19-9, 8-7) badly needed a win to solidify an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

The Longhorns can finish no worse than 500 in league play, but are just 5-6 over the past five

weeks since losing P.J. Tucker, their best player, for the season because of academic problems.

Texas is 1-4 against ranked opponents and ends the regular season on the road against the team they beat, No. 8 Oklahoma State. That was Tucker's last game.

"It's disappointing," coach Rick Barnes said. "I think we all know we're at the point in time we need great guys to show up to play. We had half the guys do that."

Sampson knows how tenuous the NCAA tournament situation is for Texas. Like the Sooners last year, Texas has had injuries deplete its lineup.

"We were 8-8 last year and we didn't get in," Sampson said. Then, he all but lobbied for his rival as he left the postgame interviews.

"I hope they go. They deserve to go," he said. "They've just had bad luck."

Oklahoma beat Texas with power on the boards and speed in transition. The Sooners dominated the rebounding 39-29 and scored 23 points off 15 Texas turnovers.

"I don't think there's any question they're a more athletic team," Barnes said. "It got into a jumping contest at times and they got more possessions."

Defensively, the Sooners locked down Longhorns guard Daniel Gibson for most of the game, denying him drives to the basket and

neutralizing him as a three-point shooter until late in the game.

Gibson, one of top freshmen in the country, led Texas with 16 points, but his five turnovers matched his assists and he was just 4-of-14 shooting.

Oklahoma established control midway through the first half with a 13-0 run and led 39-29 at halftime.

Another Sooners run to open the second half sent the Longhorns scrambling to catch up the rest of the game.

**No. 12 Gonzaga 87, N. Colorado 60:** At Spokane, Wash., Ronny Turiaf scored 22 points and Gonzaga wrapped up its regular season with its 10th consecutive victory.

Gonzaga (23-4) went 13-0 in the new McCarthy Athletic Center this season, and has a 25-game home winning streak, second-longest in the nation to Oklahoma State's 28.

Turiaf, playing his final home game, added eight rebounds for Gonzaga, which is 37-0 at home when ranked.

The Bulldogs, who won the West Coast Conference, next play in the semifinals of the league tournament on Sunday at Santa Clara.

Kirk Archibue had 17 points for Northern Colorado (8-20), a Division I independent, which shot 33 percent, including 2-for-20 from three-point range.

## Air Force handles San Diego St.

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Antoine Hood scored 17 of his 20 points in the second half and Jacob Burtch added 15 points to lead Air Force to a 77-57 victory over San Diego State on Monday night.

Air Force (17-11, 8-5 Mountain West) hit 13 three-pointers, including three straight in a key second-half stretch. The Falcons attempted 29 three-pointers and finished with more than 10 converted threes for the 12th time this season.

Air Force struggled from the field in the first half, but shot 63 percent in the second half. The Falcons, who led 33-30 at halftime, shot just 27.3 percent (6-for-22) in the final 20 minutes.

Hood was 8-for-12 from the floor, including two

three-pointers, and six Falcons made three-point shots. Nick Welch finished with 13 points and Tim Keller had 12 to move into 12th place on Air Force's career scoring list with 1,092 points. Keller also played in his 113th game to become the Falcons' career leader.

Matt Thomas had a career-high 20 points for San Diego State (10-16, 4-9) which lost its fifth straight game.

Air Force made three straight three-pointers to take a 55-47 lead with 8:24 remaining in the game. The Falcons did not get closer than eight points for the rest of the game.

Air Force hosts Wyoming on Saturday in its regular-season finale.



Air Force's Nick Welch had 13 points on 5-of-10 shooting on Monday night.

## Blockage: BC defeated for second time in 3 games

BLOCKAGE, FROM BACK PAGE

"They came in here, and it was men against boys," said BC's Craig Smith who scored 22 points but was the only BC player with double figures.

The Eagles won their first 20 games and attained their highest ranking ever — No. 3 before losing two of their past three games.

Another sellout crowd came to say goodbye to the senior class, and Heisman Trophy winner Doug Flutie jammed with the band, playing the drums on "Johnny B. Goode."

But even with a chance to clinch the conference title, BC barely put up a fight.

Smith hit a jumper in the lane to make it 34-32 with 17:38 left, but Pittsburgh scored the next 11 points, getting consecutive putbacks from DeGroot to make it 45-32.

With 5:47 left and BC trailing 59-45, Smith airballed one free throw and then meekly rolled his second off the back of the rim.

And that convinced the Conte Forum crowd to head home try to beat the oncoming blizzard.

## Puzzling ACC should test selection committee

BY WENDELL BARNHOUSE

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

On March 13, the 65-team NCAA Tournament bracket will be unveiled.

While teams in contention for automatic and at-large bids are sweating, the members of the selection committee are also springing.

Other than undefeated Illinois, the No. 1 seeds have yet to be decided. North Carolina is in good shape of earning a top seed and Wake Forest is also in the running.

Those two teams are from a conference — the Atlantic Coast —



One season after playing in the NCAA championship game, Jarrett Jack and Georgia Tech might not make the field of 65 this year.

which could be particularly perplexing for the committee. North Carolina, Wake Forest and Duke will be in the field. But the ACC, which has been considered the nation's top conference, is a jumbled mess under those three.

Maryland, which lost at home to North Carolina on Sunday, has swept Duke this season. But the Terps have been swept by Clemson and North Carolina State.

Georgia Tech, the national runner-up last season, has alternated wins and losses in its past nine games and is 5-7 in its past 12.

North Carolina State, which has had losing streaks of four and three games, is 16-11 overall, and

at 6-8 has a chance to finish at 500 in the ACC.

"The situation like the ACC is one of several things that the committee will wrestle with during selection weekend," said Iowa athletic director Bob Bowlsby, chair of the selection committee. "I think all of us are looking at the ACC and saying 'Gee, I hope that clears up a little bit before we have to deal with it.' If it doesn't, it's a situation that will require a lot of time on the part of the committee in order to get it right."

The committee also might have trouble separating teams in Conference USA. After Louisville and Charlotte, Cincinnati, DePaul, Houston and Memphis are all fighting for at-large invitations.

## SPORTS



Bears cut 2001 first-round pick Terrell; lawsuit against ex-Raider Romanowski goes to trial, Page 25



# Blockage in the Big East



Pittsburgh's Levon Kendall (14) refuses to let Boston College's Nate Doornekamp (13) control a rebound during the Panthers' 72-50 victory on Monday night. The Panthers outrebounded the Eagles 49-27 and outshot them 48 percent to 31 percent in their sixth consecutive win over BC.

## Pitt prevents BC from winning conference title

BY JIMMY GOLEN  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — It's hard to tell which was the biggest problem for Boston College: Bad shooting, bad rebounding or bad karma.

No. 5 BC blew a chance to clinch the top seed in its final Big East tournament when it got trounced by No. 24 Pittsburgh 72-50 on Monday night. The result was all too familiar for the Eagles, who have been pariahs in the league since deciding to leave for the Atlantic Coast Conference: Their football team also squandered a Big East title when it got blown out in its last conference home game.

"This game was extremely important to [Pittsburgh]. But it was important to us, too," BC coach Al Skinner said. "We had something to gain here. The motivation for them was fine, but that's no reason we should have allowed something like this to occur."

BC (23-3, 12-3 Big East) will still win the conference outright or share it if with a victory over Rutgers on Saturday. No. 15 Connecticut, which is a half-game behind BC, plays Georgetown on Wednesday and No. 13 Syracuse on Saturday.

Pittsburgh (19-7, 9-6) had been ranked as high as 10th in the AP poll this year, but three



Pittsburgh's Antonio Graves (22) had 13 points and five rebounds on Monday. The Panthers are in fifth place, the last spot for a first-round bye in the Big East tournament.

straight losses — the past two at home — had knocked it from 17th to 24th. That changed Pitt from a team worried about its NCAA seeding to one in danger of missing the tournament.

ment completely.

The Panthers held the fifth and last spot for a first-round bye. They will finish the regular season at Notre Dame on Saturday.

"This is the real Pittsburgh team right here. That's really how we play," guard Carl Krauser said. "Everyone knows the Pittsburgh team is tough."

John DeGroat had eight points and six rebounds in 10 second-half minutes to help Pitt beat BC for the sixth straight time — including three in the conference tournament.

"They've got our number," BC forward Jared Dudley said. "Pittsburgh's done it to us the last couple of years. They like playing against us."

The loss had a similar feel to the BC football finale, when the Eagles lost to Syracuse 47-17 to fall from the lucrative Fiesta Bowl to the Continental Tire Bowl. Like that one, this wasn't even close.

Antonio Graves had 13 points and five rebounds. Chris Taft had 12 and eight, Chevon Troutman had 11 and seven, and Krauser had 10 and eight for Pitt. The Panthers outrebounded the Eagles 49-27 — 27-10 in the second half — and outshot them 48 percent to 31 percent.

SEE BLOCKAGE ON PAGE 31



Temple coach Chaney bans himself from Atlantic 10 tournament

Page 30



Gund's final game as Cavs' owner has a familiar feel in Cleveland

Page 28



With two-thirds of The Big Three gone, the A's might have to lean on their lumber

Page 27

NCAA issues report measuring teams' academic standing Page 29